

ROLL No. A0517
DATE FILMED 11-10-72
OPERATOR M.D.
LOCATION Maxwell AFB, Ala.
REDUCTION 26:1



CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY

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Marguerite K. Kennedy
MARGUERITE K. KENNEDY
Chief, Archives Branch
The Albert F. Simpson Historical
Research Center

Bill Hix
WILLIE H. HIX
Chief, Technical Systems Branch
The Albert F. Simpson Historical
Research Center

ROLL No. AD 517-A
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Marquette E. Kennedy
MARQUETTE E. KENNEDY
Chief, Archives Branch
The Albert F. Simpson Historical
Research Center

Billy H. Hix
BILLY H. HIX
Chief, Technical Systems Branch
The Albert F. Simpson Historical
Research Center

R E S T R I C T E D

S E C R E T

GENERAL ORDERS)

NO. 48)

Headquarters, Second Air Force
Fort George Wright, Washington
April 5, 1943

SECTION I

1. Pursuant to instructions contained in immediate action, restricted War Department Letter AC 320.2(3-31-43)G8-I-AFO,US. April 1, 1943. Subject: "Constitution and Activation of Certain Airdrome Squadrons", the following units having been constituted and assigned to the Second Air Force are activitated as indicated, effective this date.

<u>AIRDROME SQUADRON</u>	<u>STATION OF ACTIVATION</u>	<u>PRIORITY RATING</u>	<u>SOURCE OF CADRE PERSONNEL FROM THOSE UNDER:</u>
94th	AAB Walla Walla, Washington	C-1-1655	Control of 21st Bomb Wing
95th	AAB Scottsbluff, Nebraska	C-1-1656	Control of 21st Bomb Wing
96th	AAB Alamagordo, New Mexico	C-1-1657	Control of 16th Bomb Wing
97th	AAB Wendover, Utah	C-1-1658	Control of 21st Bomb Wing
98th	AAB Rapid City, South Dakota	C-1-1659	Control of 21st Bomb Wing
99th	AAB Casper, Wyoming	C-1-1660	Control of 15th Bomb Wing
110th	AAB Dalhart, Texas	C-1-1661	Control of 46th Bomb Wing
301st	AAB Pocatello, Idaho	C-1-1662	Control of 15th Bomb Wing
302nd	AAB Cowen Field, Boise, Idaho	C-1-1663	Control of 21st Bomb Wing
303rd	AAB Ephrata, Washington	C-1-1664	Control of 21st Bomb Wing
304th	AAB Blythe, California	C-1-1665	Control of 10th Bomb Wing
305th	AAB Dalhart, Texas	C-1-1666	Control of 46th Bomb Tng Wg
306th	AAB Rapid City, South Dakota	C-1-1667	Control of 17th Bomb Tng Wg

R E S T R I C T E D

<u>AIRDROME SQUADRON</u>	<u>STATION OF ACTIVATION</u>	<u>PRIORITY RATING</u>	<u>SOURCE OF CADRE PERSONNEL FROM THOSE UNDER:</u>
307th	AAB Davis-Monthan Fld, Tucson, Arizona	C-1-1668	Control of 21st Bomb Wing
308th	AAB Pocatello, Idaho	C-1-1669	Control of 15th Bomb Tng Wg
309th	AAB Walla Walla, Washington	C-1-1670	Control of 21st Bomb Wing
310th	AAB Alamogordo, New Mexico	C-1-1671	Control of 16th Bomb Tng Wg

2. Tables of Organization, 1-457- , October 15, 1941, and changed January 25, 1943, will be used as a guide in the organization of these units. Specific authorization of enlisted grades will be published in a separate communication.

3. Army Air Forces Form 127 and 128 (Personnel Status Reports) will be accomplished by the Commanding Generals of the wings concerned.

4. Equipment will be in accordance with Tables of Basic Allowance 1, July 1, 1942 and changes.

5. Army Air Forces Regulations 15-107, December 12, 15-108, December 15, 1942, and Technical Order OC-25-3, will be complied with immediately by the Commanding Generals of the Bombardment Wings concerned.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY
R*E*S*T*R*I*C*T*E*D

306TH AIRDROME SQUADRON

APO 70

SECRET
AUTH: CO
Init: BLS
2/25/45

AG 314.7

SUBJECT: Organizational Historical Resume

TO : Commanding General, Fifth Air Force, APO 710
(ATT: Historical Section) THRU: Channels

The 306th Airdrome Squadron was activated on 5 April 1943, per Sec 1, Par 1, General Order #48, Headquarters, 2nd Air Force, at Rapid City, AAB, Rapid City, South Dakota. The unit was stationed at Rapid City AAB from its date of activation to 31 July 1943, during which time it performed no duties at the field as its primary mission there was to bring the Squadron up to strength.

From Rapid City the unit moved to Geiger Field, Washington where it was assigned to the 383rd Bomb Group. At Geiger Field the Squadron underwent an extensive schedule of basic training under the able administration of Major Henry H. Hunter, Commanding Officer.

On 24 Oct 1943, the 306th moved to Peterson Field, Colorado Springs, Colorado, and was assigned to the 383rd Combat Crew Training School. The unit did not function as a unit, but rather, the men were assigned duties on the flight line, production line maintenance and sub-depot, working almost exclusively on B-24 heavy bombers.

Pueblo AAB at Pueblo, Colorado, was the next stop for the Squadron when it changed stations on 10 January 1944. At Pueblo the unit was assigned to the 360th Combat Crew Training School and the same situation prevailed there as it had at Peterson Field: the Squadron did not function as a unit but was assigned duties on the flight line, PLM and sub-depot.

A POM inspection team visited the unit during April of 1944 and as a result, the Squadron embarked for the overseas staging area at Camp Stoneman, Pittsburg, California, on 6 May, 1944.

The Squadron left the United States from San Francisco on 16 May 1944, and landed at the Finschafen, New Guinea, staging area 12 June 1944. Three weeks later, on 6 July, the 306th Adrm Sq set sail for Noemfoor, N.E.I. and arrived there 4 Aug 1944. It was assigned to the 64th Service Group and its mission was to operate base operations and service transient aircraft on the Kornasoren Airstrip.

S E C R E T

BASIC: Ltr., 306th Airdrome Squadron, dated 25 February 1945,
subj: "Organizational Historical Resume". (Cont'd)

The "big day" for the Squadron came on 30 Sept 1944 when it helped stage the 90th or "Jolly Rogers" Bomb Group (H) in preparation for the longest B-24 raid in history - at that time. The strike was directed at the Balikpapan oil center in Borneo.

Embarking from Noemfoor Island, N.E.I. on 27 Dec 1944, the 306th Airdrome Squadron was enroute to Luzon, Philippine Islands, when the year 1944 came to a close.

The information contained in this report has been written and compiled by Cpl Robert E. Davidson, Headquarters Section.

For the Commanding Officer:

(Signed)
ANTHONY J. ANCONETANI
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Historical Officer

1 Incl:

Incl: Picture of Major B. L. Saunders, Commanding Officer

R-E-S-T-R-I-C-T-E-D

SPECIAL ORDERS)
:
NUMBER 124...)

215TH COMBAT CREW TRAINING SCHOOL
ARMY AIR BASE, PUEBLO, COLORADO
3 MAY 1944

E-X-T-R-A-C-T

1. The fol O's & EM, on atachd Annex #1, (page 1 thru 5 incl), are reld from dy AAB, Pueblo, Colo, WP by rail o/a 6 May 44, fr AAB, Pueblo, Colo, to Ft Mason, Calif, RUAT CG, for dy pending further orders, Auth:

2nd AF Memo 35-2, 11 Apr 44.

This is a permanent change of station

RTO: furn nec rail T.

TT:PCS: TDN: 1-5000 P 433-01-02-03-07-08 A 6425-24

The prov of POM, as amended by auth cited above will be complied with.

Train Commander, will comply with the prov of Cir 341, WD, 1943, as amended by Cir #10, WD, 1944.

Copies this O will be furn w/o delay as follows:

- 7 - CG, Army Air Forces (For distribution to Chiefs of Technical Services.
- 1 - CG, AAF Air Service Command, Patterson Fld, Fairfield, Ohio. (Air Mail)
- 1 - Mobilization Division, ASF (Movements Branch), Wash, D. C.
- 1 - The Adjutant General (OB-1).
- 3 - AC of AS, O, C, & R, Commitments Div.
- 2 - AAF, Mil Personnel Div, Personnel Branch, Wash, D. C.
- 3 - CG, 2nd AF, Colo Springs, Colo.
- 3 - CG, Ft. Mason, Calif.
- 4 - CO, Orgn Concerned
- 2 - RTO
- 10 - File

By order of Colonel PEYTON:

OFFICIAL:

LEON M. GAUVREAU
Captain, Air Corps,
Adjutant

LEON M. GAUVREAU
Captain, Air Corps,
Adjutant

R-E-S-T-R-I-C-T-E-D

R-E-S-T-R-I-C-T-E-D

Par 1, SO #124, 215th CCTS, AAB, Pueblo, Colo, 3 May 44, Cont'd

ANNEX #1

OFFICERS:

Captains

		<u>MOS</u>	<u>ASN</u>
#William P. Bakel		4823	0-854318

First Lieutenants

Anthony J. Anconetani	4902	0-862119	Joseph A. Auth	2110	0-566959
			Charles A. Earhart	4822	0-863951
William Friga Jr	6402	0-563049	Richard H. Garth	4113	0-577654
Frederick W. Strisko	0200	0-861107			

ENLISTED MEN:

Master Sergeants

Adelbert K. Armitage	542	6576126	Charles W. Swaim	750	6873451
----------------------	-----	---------	------------------	-----	---------

First Sergeant

Ernest M. McAdams	502	20910068			
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Technical Sergeants

James F. Batman Jr	752	13033836	Walter G. Schwelgin	685	35301365
			Jack Powell	756	37267956

Staff Sergeants

John A. Bedney	747	20708481	Michael Benyo	747	32255786
George F. Blouir	862	35611931	Charles F. Clark	405	14149303
William M. George	747	39238294	James S. Hermes	747	15072358
Edward E. Howick	747	19059706	Louis J. Kochan	754	31126182
Felton E. McKibben	686	38222422	Kenneth R. Porter	824	38234352
Edson R. Potter	014	35156964			
Robert E. Stepan	747	16001539	William M. Sutler	747	33091559
Hughlin C. Word	747	17023599	Jack L. Wynn	826	34350939

Sergeants

George W. Abbott	405	34428247	Theodore R. Bardahl	862	37263722
Richard O. Burkitt	932	35634781	Willard M. Calloway	060	38123914
Jack E. Campbell	747	18053086	John M. Carroll	256	36506945
Harold F. Case Jr	144	19075018	Roger F. Clark	405	17048142
Donald J. Combs	405	38318315	John L. Crump	911	32372033

R-E-S-T-R-I-C-T-E-D

Annex #1, Par 1, SO #124, 215th CCTS, AAB, Pueblo, Colo, 3 May 44, Cont'd
Sergeants Cont'd

Jesse E. Dixon	754	34035767	Jerry R. Emory	911	38162431
Bernard E. Farrell	911	12130061	Russell E. Frandsen	809	39902405
Ernest A. Fuller	050	14149053	Philip A. Glazier	754	32476022
Murray Gottlieb	747	32441449	Leonard G. Hale	405	19051721
Frank S. Hemze	685	37311796	Anthony Henry	685	39255939
John D. Hersey	683	37656641	Grant S. Jackson	686	37264400
Ross E. Kepler	239	15330583	Emory O. Kruse	687	37381682
Darius C. Lathum	060	38211233	Lee Leyba	687	37329136
Richard A. Marfurt	620	32739341	John C. McGriff	555	18168569
John A. Mooney	685	32377720	Bernard F. Morrissey	686	33225614
James L. Murphy	238	37498527	Frank Paulovich Jr	060	37352148
Edward W. Polanowski	070	32479075	Albert S. Scialfo	631	12081140
Andrew Sedek	060	33290205	Rufus T. Semanski	911	39181576
Russell H. Stanton	747	16044385	Robert F. Stivers	555	16076179
Wren Thomas	932	37205516	Raymond Trotter	405	6665145
Manuel Veloza	014	11116910	Henry J. Walgus	747	32280796
Raymond T. Willhoite	747	15045648	Jefferson M. Yeilding Jr	747	14108219

Corporals

James C. Amyx	687	34288948	John G. Wattman	754	43441032
Lee E. Alban	747	17129007	Richard E. Warnock	754	35645475
Robert C. Boozer	911	38444325	Anthony M. Bucar	548	32883699
Cliva L. Capps	932	39330339	Edward Cartwright	060	35715822
Charles L. Chittim	911	39610182	Jack Clifton	911	19004870
Roy W. Cromartie	683	14138830	Robert E. Davidson	405	31068021
Harry C. Dennis	405	17033368	Dale H. Dettbarn	747	37115844
Edwin C. Dodson	911	38387972	George A. Drake	620	32792122
Floyd A. Flannery	747	36236526	Chester F. Folan	747	35424925
John Fritch	747	33398026	Edmund J. Gambeski	747	32427589
William W. Gardner	932	34782866	William J. Gehle	747	15374231
Herbert J. Geller	060	12190845	Romulo Gomez	060	38366243
Other D. Gregg	060	38140157	Robert L. Harper	911	15334228
John H. Hillers	747	36371728	Charles P. Hilton	747	31152150
Dean Ibberson	747	33241802	George R. Leith	555	37505630
James J. McDonald	754	31081124	David J. Moreau	060	36419306
Walter Mudar	555	36171955	Richard J. Neubert Jr	747	33160486
Bernardo Perez Jr	060	38363910	Vincent B. Potter	555	32830423
Howard L. Reeves	405	37460647	Michael J. Revitshy	650	33393386
Edward A. Sears	345	32659711	Kenneth A. Simpson	809	33567460
Edgar R. Singleton	237	33497741	William B. Smith	756	37214080
Ivan W. Strickfaden	932	36459652	William B. Taylor	060	33443048
Raymond E. Thomas	405	35721470	Chester W. Vanderbilt	275	32740585
James W. Whitehurst	911	34200553	Marion E. Young	060	35482303

Privates First Class

Harlie E. Amburn	405	39413875	William H. Arnold	747	36164839
Albert J. Bickel Jr	256	35681137	Napoleon R. Blais	911	31201356
Robert M. Brett	911	35506533	Gordon G. Chatfield	911	39099268

R-E-S-T-R-I-C-T-E-D

Annex #1, Par 1, SO #124, 215 CCTS, AAB, Pueblo, Colo, 3 May 44, Cont'd
Privates First Class Cont'd.

Henry D. Cisneros	345	38219677	Charles S. Cole	747	16033117
Ivan E. Collins	683	37505717	John R. Cook	405	38450693
Carl J. Davis	911	15337958	Joseph P. DeMarinis	911	32607350
Mines W. Doolittle	911	38388560	Richard P. Dorman	911	33425247
Gilbert L. Draper	405	34663886	Thomas N. Drewett	747	18139010
Robert F. Eggenberger	747	36291413	John J. Gallagher Jr	405	32751737
Anthony E. Giordanengo	822	35049125	Joseph A. Glatfelter	911	33238219
Harold E. Harbin	747	35480463	Charles W. Horner	747	12031193
Edgar G. Humphrey	747	34287348	Edward C. Kozlik	405	36740117
Seymour B. Kramer	555	12158050	Orr I. Larsen	345	39829296
Tadousz J. Lenart	911	32745501	Francis J. MacDonald	911	32779824
Leland P. Maidlow	747	35495333	William F. Matthews	590	36424353
Martin T. McKee	405	36475712	James A. McNaul	911	37506591
Vincent Mercurio	911	32718162	Merwyn W. Merhige	911	32716017
John M. Michod	756	36616079	Ben Mizrahi	590	32813911
Robert A. Morton	405	32605353	Elbert C. Riggin Jr	405	38389574
Earl C. Robb	345	32659682	Edward Rogalski	345	31187021
Sylvio Scarpelli	932	36651570	Byron J. Schultz	747	37293100
Melvin W. Seay	932	34652054	Samuel W. Shearer	756	13093872
Bernard Sherman	747	12041918	Erwin Smrz	345	36653149
Vincent J. Stackle	650	36277586	Walter L. Taylor	932	38107045
Robert C. Ulberg	756	37544486	Pio D. Uliassi	754	36717656
Anthony S. Vsetula	405	36523799	Bronick A. Watroba	911	31127571
William F. Wilke	683	33564534	Merle G. Yarnell	756	35347335
Charles P. Zalucki	754	12172272	Mike J. Witkonis	756	33624169

Privates

Irving A. Akin	911	12172392	Angelo Zaffaroni	590	36618998
Samuel Auman	747	34315785	Arnold L. Bjornstrom	747	36199873
Fred L. Brown	911	33235671	Robert K. Burnett	237	17161382
Ruduas Campbell	932	36872344	Joe Carrick	767	35091235
Ernest J. Daigle Jr	590	38414907	Lewis E. Dingler	345	34390410
Norman Discount	237	33600675	Charles E. Eaton	756	31150831
Paul Erso	237	36662987	Juan Espinoza	747	38156688
Jack Fisher	237	38494512	William S. Frazee	911	36703549
Francis R. Gibbons	237	37416127	James J. Gilmore	756	12155166
Thomas H. Gottman	747	36620921	Leo B. Graff	747	38181357
Fred R. Griffith	590	37126268	Billy J. Hendon	237	34808725
James F. Higgins	050	17159520	Gerald C. Hollaway	050	38130632
Elmer J. Jansen	590	35126313	James M. Klaser	345	17107158
Leonard J. Kramer	237	33510128	William J. Labbe	590	31179715
Ross W. LaPorte	590	39554271	George W. A. Lee	911	12168846
Cletus A. Leight	237	33256499	Clarence G. Lohrey	237	37223059
Mitchell S. Malek	650	36726565	Louis R. Maletich	747	36555742
Antonio Mattiace	590	31292005	Thomas W. Maund	911	14114972
Michael J. Morra	911	12157349	Ray F. Ohnmeiss Jr	911	33242934
Morris E. Palmer	345	35091657	Denzil W. Parish	014	37505308
Anthony Pelose	747	32469391	Gearl E. Prince	345	33524718
William L. Pringle	590	34104217	Joe N. Rathmann	911	38253581
Robert S. Rutledge	345	35787985	Edward T. Sheehy	590	32414267

R-E-S-T-R-I-C-T-E-D

Annex #1, Par 1, SO #124, 215 CCTS, AAB, Pueblo, Colo, 3 May 44, Cont'd
Privates Cont'd

Isadore Smith	405	32777050	James L. Stroud	932	39414420
Stanley J. Uniak	756	37222969	Philip Vozzola	237	31276199
John W. Walker	747	33249059	James O. Woodson	590	13075315

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

OFFICERS:

Captains:

Oscar J. Fatum	3100	0-492846
----------------	------	----------

ENLISTED MEN:

Staff Sergeants

Malcolm M. Hippert	673	33242848
--------------------	-----	----------

Corporals

George J. Holland Jr	861	36613010
Dale E. Wagoner	861	16145920

Privates First Class

Therman A. Franks Sr	055	33393078
Edward E. Osterkamp	861	38452525
George J. Ryan	861	32780931

Privates

Lloyd Gingrich	345	33242827
John B. Gizler	345	13155630

ORDNANCE DEPARTMENT

OFFICERS:

First Lieutenant

*Mike E. Pepper	4532	0-1554605
-----------------	------	-----------

ENLISTED MEN:

Technical Sergeant

Staff Sergeant

LeRoy A. Lopas	901	36811527	Cleo A. Bosley	901	37512303
----------------	-----	----------	----------------	-----	----------

Sergeants

Aden L. Noakes	901	35453732	Charles A. Goepfert	911	35602570
Frederick W. Stoldt	014	17129381	John Roth	901	33264048
Wilton H. Meischen	901	38456580	James M. McClellan	405	14066804
			Robert D. Westerhouse	901	36810563

R-E-S-T-R-I-C-T-E-D

Annex #1, Par 1, SO #124, 215th CCTS, AAB, Pueblo, Colo, 3 May 44, Cont'd

Corporals

Gerald M. Acla	901	33463809	Lloyd E. Anderson	901	33573524
John W. Bell	901	35791566	William H. Boring	901	33572775
Arch L. Carey	901	33433346	Floid Collins	901	37259093
Joseph H. Kardos	901	33425294	Robert E. Little	901	37658768
James J. Main	911	36455443	Henry J. Reichman	911	39559117
Frank J. Rifel	901	36344658	Herbert J. Tharrington	901	14050619
Lawrence L. Walls	901	33572894			

Privates First Class

Charles G. Allen	055	31083129	Warren D. Aukes	901	36738823
William A. Battise	901	39308367	Sampson Bird In The Ground Jr		
Carl A. Westbrook	901	37280988		901	39615635

Privates

Gillermo P. Alonso	345	18202120	Woodruff J. Harrison	901	35695987
Charles G. Riddell	901	35787995	Edward Strauch	901	33490457

Train Commander.

Annex #1, Comprising pages 1 thru 5 inclusive are certified correct as to name, MOS & Serial Number.

/s/James S. Stone
JAMES S. STONE
Captain, Air Corps,
Commanding.

S E C R E T

SQUADRON HISTORY AND RECORD OF EVENTS
May 1 to 31 Inclusive

The stay of the 306th Airdrome Squadron at Pueblo Army Air Base in Pueblo, Colorado, was rapidly coming to a close on 1 May 1944. The requirements of Preparation for Overseas Movement (short title - POM) had been met and passed by all sections of the organization.

Captain James S. Stone, Squadron Commander, 1st Lt Guy C. Dempsey, Technical Supply Officer, 1st Lt Frank H. Vogel Assistant Eng O and T Sgt Wilson Smith left on D. S. for Ft. Mason, California, to prepare for the Squadron's embarkation overseas. Their principle duties at the post were to requisition supplies and equipment that the organization was short and to oversee the stowing of all equipment on the U.S.A.T. Sea Marlin, the transport which was to carry the unit to its destination.

At 0900, 6 May 1944, the 306th Airdrome Squadron took leave of the Air Base at Pueblo, Colorado, to the stirring strains of the Base's crack band and the ringing cheers of the many friends earned in the Squadron's short stay at the base.

The next two days were spent aboard the troop train, which was under the command of Captain William P. Bakel, Engineering Officer and Acting Squadron Commander, and on 8 May 1944 the staging area reached. The Squadron was to stay there a week.

The week's stay in Camp Stoneman was spent in fulfilling last minute clothing and equipment shortages of the EM and Officers, short overseas physical examinations and indoctrination into the mysteries and routine of "life aboard an Army Transport".

Two men departing the organization at this point: one last minute hospital case and one man who had been AWOL for some time. Replacements were procured from the large replacement pool maintained at Camp Stoneman for this purpose.

At 1330, 15 May 1944, the unit departed Camp Stoneman aboard the AFB Catalina enroute to San Francisco and the U.S.A.T. Sea Marlin. Upon arrival in San Francisco it was only a matter of minutes for the entire squadron to transfer from the Catalina and board the Sea Marlin. There the Officers and EM who were on D.S. to Ft. Mason rejoined the unit, with the exception of 1st Lt Guy Dempsey who was to fly to the new destination.

S E C R E T

SQUADRON HISTORY AND RECORD OF EVENTS

1 to 31 May 1944 Inclusive
(Continued)

It is interesting to note that very few men thought much about their leaving the hallowed shores of the United States; at least, as much as they had expected to. There had been so many stories circulated concerning "gang-plank" knees, that each and every man feared that he would be the one to succumb to that "dread disease". But no, it seemed as though the only worry of each and every man was whether or not he could get up said gang-plank with his heavy duffle bag on his shoulders; needless to say, every man did.

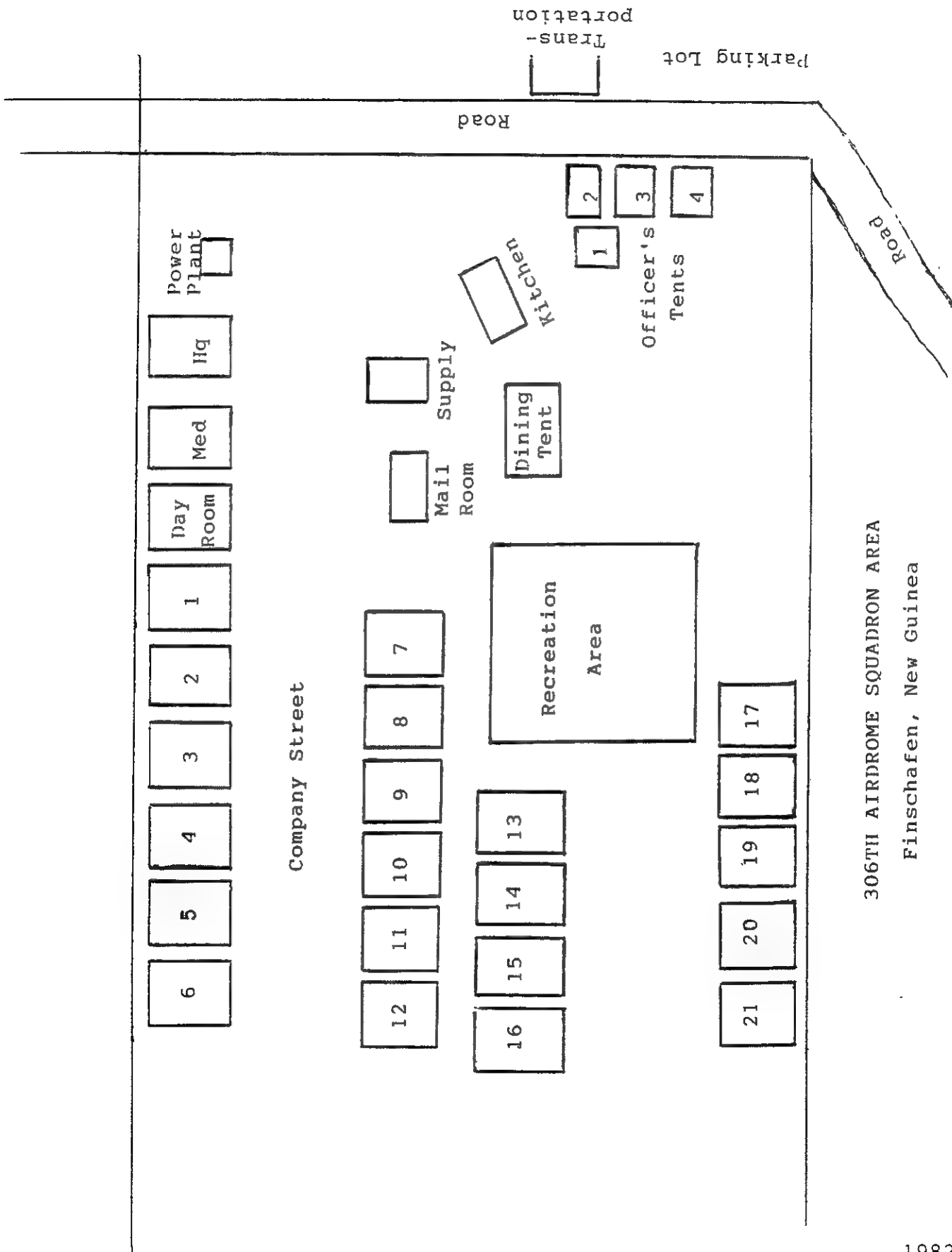
At 1000, 16 May 1944, the U.S.A.T. Sea Marlin sailed under the Golden Gate Bridge of San Francisco out onto the broad Pacific headed for....no one knew.

- - -

Life is grim! Life is earnest aboard an Army Transport! That was the attitude of the men of the 306th Airdrome Squadron, after a week at sea. It was a week of life-boat drills, chow lines, deck cleaning details and numerous other little chores which are such an integral part of transport life.

And then there was the other side of the picture; the recreation side. For recreation the ship provided movies, a library, sports and games and a daily news summary which was punctuated by many short, ship-board anecdotes and very humorous announcements, mimicking some of the better known "commercials" heard so often on radio in the "States".

The strength of the Squadron as of 31 May 1944, was 251 Enlisted Men and 12 Officers.



306TH AIRDROME SQUADRON AREA

Finschafen, New Guinea

6/12/44 to 7/6/44 Incl.

Figure No. 1

SQUADRON HISTORY AND RECORD OF EVENTS
June 16 to 30th Inclusive

Camp life at Finschafen was easy going and mail came in regularly, which kept the morale of the men at high pitch. Movies were readily accessible in the surrounding area and a beach where the personnel could bathe was near the area. Taking all into consideration, ours was not such a bad lot.

1st Lt Richard H. Garth was relieved of additional duty as Transportation Officer and assigned additional duty of Assistant Transportation Officer on 17 June 1944, and 1st Lt Mike E. Pepper was assigned the additional duty of Transportation Officer.

On June 19th Sgt Leonard G. Hale was discharged from the hospital and returned to duty. And on that same day two men were promoted to the rank of Sergeant: Cpl James J. McDonald of the Communications Section and Cpl Dean Ibberson of the Engineering Section.

The month found quite a few proud fathers in the organization: Sgt Albert S. Scialfo of the Special Service and Intelligence Section is the father of a fine baby girl; 1st Lt Charles A. Earhart, Squadron Armament Officer is the proud parent of a boy; Sgt Richard Marfurt is the father of a new girl and pfc Albert J. Bickel and Pvt Ray F. Ohnmeiss are the smiling parents of baby girls.

Lt Joseph A. Auth, was assigned the additional duty as Unit Exchange Officer on June 20th, and 1st Lt Fredrick W. Strisko assigned the additional duty as Special Service Officer.

By this time the camp was completely set up. A day room, mess hall and dining room, dispensary, latrine, showers and a volley ball court had been completed and utilized by all personnel of the unit. Through the efforts of the Special Service Section a volley ball tournament was started between the various teams of the Squadron sections and the Officers and Enlisted Mens' teams. (See Figure 1 for diagram of the camp site.)

The following Enlisted Men were reduced to the grade of Private for inefficiency on June 28th: Sgt Frank Paulovich, Sgt Andrew Sedok and Cpl Herbert J. Geller. On the same day Cpl George R. Leith was admitted to the 119th Station Hospital.

At Finschafen the Squadron was called upon to furnish details often for the purpose of loading and unloading air freight. This was carried out for the rest of the month.

At the end of the month the strength of the organization was 12 O's and 261 EM, of which three were in the hospital.

SQUADRON HISTORY AND RECORD OF EVENTS
1 to 31st July 1944 Inclusive

The month of July started with the Squadron engaged in various details of work at the Finschafen Staging Area. One detail was the Air Freight loading and unloading of C-47's. This proved to be an interesting detail and several of the men enjoyed working there. For most of the men it was a thrill to see their first Jap prisoners, as it was their first contact with the results of combat.

Thus far there had been no officers or enlisted men afflicted with disease or sickness common to the area. Sgt Frank S. Hemze was discharged from the 119th Station Hospital and has returned to duty. Other enlisted men in the hospital at this time were Cpls George R. Leith and James C. Amyx.

Several men received quite a surprise on the 3rd of July: a Squadron Order was published bearing their names on the promotion list. Men receiving promotions are as follows: Sgt Rufus T. Semanski to S Sgt, Cpl Chester F. Folan and Cpl Chester W. Vanderbilt to Sgt, Pfc's Thomas N. Drewett, Samuel W. Shearer, Pfc Pio D. Uliassi, Denzil W. Parish to Cpl and Pvt Lloyd Gingrich to Pfc.

Along about the 3rd or 4th of the month Special Orders were received for movement of the outfit closer to the front. For the next several days all the packing and crating of the Squadron Equipment took place. Finally, orders came to load the ship and from the 5th to the 7th July, everyone was busy getting the boxes and crates aboard the S.S. Frank H. Dodd, a liberty ship detailed to carry the Squadron to its new area.

On the 6th of July Cpl James C. Amyx, a propeller specialist, was transferred from the Squadron to the 119th Station Hospital Detachment of Patients at Finschafen, N.G. Cpl Amyx had been with the Squadron since September 1943. He was well liked and everyone was disappointed at his having to leave the outfit.

On July the 7th the boat was completely loaded and the personnel embarked in the midst of a driving rain on the S.S. Frank H. Dodd at 1500., for water movement to a secret destination. The first night was spent on board boat at the dock at Finschafen and about noon the next day, 8 July 1944, the anchor was lifted and the ship was on its way.

For three days the Dodd cruised, always in sight of land, enroute for our destination and at the end of the third day dropped anchor in Hollandia, N. G., there to wait further orders.

SQUADRON HISTORY AND RECORD OF EVENTS
1 to 31st July 1944 Inclusive
(continued)

On July 14th 1st Lt Richard H. Garth, Supply Officer was admitted to the 36th Evacuation Hospital at Hollandia, N. G. From there he was evacuated to Finschafen, N. G., and later was sent to Milne Bay, N. G.

Several members of the Squadron were permitted to go ashore at Hollandia. Many of them were able to find Japanese souvenirs and all of them came back with some "tall" tales that they had heard ashore.

It is fitting to make reference here to Captain Joseph Smith, Master, of the S.S. Frank H. Dodd. The unfailing kindness and generous spirit shown by him to the Enlisted Men and Officers aboard his ship are worthy of commendation.

Pvt Lewis E. Dingler was taken ashore at Hollandia and admitted to the 36th Evacuation Hospital with a case of appendicitis on July 21, 1944.

Two Squadron Officers, Captain William P. Bakel and 1st Lt Frank H. Vogel went ashore at Hollandia and from there flew to Noemfoor Island for the purpose of getting the Squadron mail. It was disclosed at this time that that was our destination and our mail had been forwarded there. About 2000, 30 July 1944, they came back with the mail.

On that same date Sgt Alfred Scialfo, Special Service NCO, and Pvt Riddell, planned and presented a G.I. show. Most of the talent came from this organization but other organizations contributed a few performers, and also two of the Merchant Marine crew performed. The stage for the show was one of the hatch covers. The spectators sat on the deck, winches, booms or any place available. Most of the men went to the show merely because they had nothing else to do and expected a "corny" and unentertaining program. They received a pleasant surprise when it turned out to be one of the best shows they had ever seen.

Orders finally came to proceed on to Noemfoor on the 31st of July.

At the end of the month the strength of the organization had decreased from 12 to 11 officers and from 261 to 259 EM, with one man in the hospital.

306TH AIRDROME SQUADRON
Finschafen, New Guinea

1 July 1944

O R D E R S)

NUMBER ...16)

1. Under the provisions of AR 615-5, the following EM are appointed to the grade indicated:

Sgt Rufus T. Semanski	39181576	to S	Sgt
Cpl Chester F. Folan	35424925	to	Sgt
Cpl Chester W. Vanderbilt	32740585	to	Sgt
Pfc Thomas N. Drewett	18139010	to	Cpl
Pfc Samuel W. Shearer	13093872	to	Cpl
Pfc Pio D. Uliassi	36717656	to	Cpl
Pvt Denzil W. Parish	37505308	to	Cpl
Pvt Lloyd Gingrich	33242827	to	Pfc

JAMES S. STONE
Capt, AC
Commanding

THIS IS A TRUE COPY:

WILLIAM FRIGA, JR,
1st Lt, AC

S E C R E T

SQUADRON HISTORY AND RECORD OF EVENTS
August 1 to 31 Inclusive

Since leaving Hollandia, New Guinea, life had been uneventful aboard the S.S. Frank H. Dodd, but as the dawn of a new month came on the morning of 1 Aug 1944, closer and closer to a combat zone sailed the 306th Airdrome Squadron.

The coast of Noemfoor was raised the next morning and glowing faces lined the rail, eager for a glimpse of their new home. At noon that day the anchor dropped on the coral bottom off the shore of the Northwest corner of Noemfoor Island. The organization was eager to land but due to unavoidable circumstances it was detained on board.

In the afternoon several canoes of natives came out to the ship and many of the occupants came aboard to barter and trade. Perhaps a better word would be sell, as the natives on Noemfoor were "money conscious" and did a large and profitable business peddling Japanese invasion currency for Australian silver money.

Orders to debark came about noon the next day, 4 August 1944, and the unit was taken ashore by amphibious jeeps or "ducks", and then taken to the area which was to be the permanent camp of the Squadron.

The area chosen was a former Japanese garden, approximately 1000 ft x 500 ft, and was a tumbled mass of weeds and vegetation common to the tropics.

As at Finschafen, so it was here; pup tents were utilized and "C" rations made up the "bill-o'-fare".

At approximately 0345, 5 August 1944, the first bombing occurred for the 306th Airdrome Squadron. One unescorted bomber (type unknown) came over at approximately 4000 ft and dropped a stick of four bombs. Even though the squadron did not have fox holes dug, due to the lack of Engineering tools, and flak and bomb fragments could be heard whistling through the air close overhead, fortunately no men were injured. "There's been a horrible mistake made somewhere!" A classic remark made by Sgt Chester W. Vanderbilt at that time, echoed the sentiments of the entire squadron.

Due to the presence of Japanese at the southern end of the island, it was necessary to post guards about the bivouac area. So, in addition to the bombing from the Japanese overhead, there was an added danger: fire from the weapons in the hands of the guards! These men too, were victims of that nervous tension which grips "rookies" in the jungle, and, therefore, were "trigger happy".

S E C R E T

SQUADRON HISTORY AND RECORD OF EVENTS
August 1 to 31 Inclusive
(Continued)

During the first night Pfc Robert A. Morton, a clerk-typist (405) in the Communications Section, was taken ill with diarrhea and removed to the 71st Evacuation Hospital. He returned from the hospital on 8 August 1944, and Pvt Fred R. Griffith, a basic, was admitted to the hospital. Sgt Lee Leyba of the Engineering Department entered the hospital on the following day with a knee injury sustained while working in the squadron area.

Cpl Harry C. Dennis, clerk-typist in the Armament Section, and 1st Lt Joseph A. Auth, Adjutant, were admitted to the 71st Evacuation Hospital, on Aug 15th. The same day 1st Lt Charles A. Earhart and 1st Lt Anthony J. Anconetani were sent to Finschafen, New Guinea, on detached service for the purpose of procuring "Safe Hand" supplies.

Pvt Fred R. Griffith returned from the hospital on 16 Aug.

During the month a new organization of the Mess Personnel took place. S Sgt Kenneth R. Porter was replaced as Mess Sgt by Pvt Gerald C. Hollaway. Several other cooks were replaced in addition to the Mess Sgt. Pvt Hollaway was thereby promoted to the grade of Cpl. S Sgt Porter was reduced to the grade of Private for inefficiency and Sgt Marion E. Young was reduced to the grade of Private for the same reason.

One of the Orderly Room personnel, Sgt Raymond E. Trotter, was reduced to the grade of private, w/o prejudice, and transferred to the Technical Supply Section, resuming his clerical duties there.

One of the primary duties of the Squadron was the setting up and operation of a large transient camp in the area adjacent to the squadron area. Two large, prefabricated mess halls and latrines were erected by the 1874th Engineer Battalion and one hundred, six-man pyramidal tents were erected by this squadron. The transient camp is to be run by the 306th Airdrome Squadron in conjunction with the 80th Airdrome Squadron, which has not arrived in this area to date.

The Engineering Department and the Tech Supply unit of the organization were placed on the Kornasoren air strip for the purpose of performing first and second echelon work on transient planes. In addition, an alert crew was posted at the Kamiri air strip for the same purpose.

The Ordnance Section received the full-time job of loading bombs for all planes at the Kornasoren strip.

S E C R E T

SQUADRON HISTORY AND RECORD OF EVENTS
August 1 to 31 Inclusive
(Continued)

Pfc Harlie E. Amburn and Pfc Francis J. MacDonald were promoted to the grade of Cpl on 18 August 1944.

The first large transient maintenance work for the Squadron came on 29 August 1944 when 18 B-25's of the 440th Bombardment arrived here from Biak in preparation for a strike at shipping and installations in the Celebes Islands. This was what the squadron had been looking forward to; taking an active part in the participation of the war against the Japanese; i.e., a direct part.

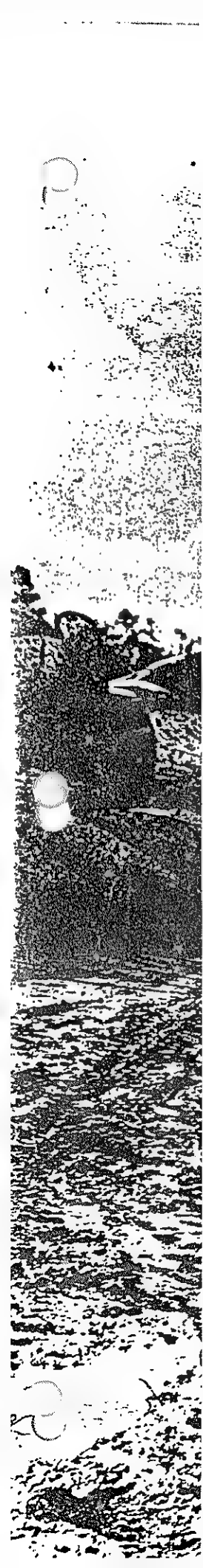
Since the initial participation, the squadron has been called upon almost daily to furnish transient planes with maintenance and transient personnel with rations and quarters.

The high spot of the Squadron's time overseas came on 22 August 1944, when Bob Hope and his troupe of performers visited Noemfoor in his swing around the South Sea islands. In addition to Bob Hope there was Jerry Colona, Tony Romano, Francis Langford and Patty Thomas. It was the opinion of the entire squadron then, and still is, that Bob Hope is worthy of any commendation and/or honor the government might confer upon him.

In compliance with Par 8, General Order #71, V Air Force Service Command dtd 18 Aug 1944 the 306th Airdrome Squadron was assigned to the 64th Service Group.

Captain William P. Baker, Engineering O, was admitted to the 71st Evacuation Hospital on 21 August.

During the month the strength of the squadron decreased from 259 EM and 12 Officers, to 258 EM and 11 O, due to the transfer of S Sgt Edson R. Potter, Transportation Chief, and 1st Lt Joseph A. Auth, Adjutant, to the Detachment of Patients Hospital at APO 565, and the transfer of 1st Lt Richard H. Garth to APO 565. Captain Ellsworth M. Tracy, MC, was assigned to the squadron as Medical Officer on 31 Aug 44. Captain Oscar J. Fatum was assigned to the 119th Station Hospital at Finschafen, New Guinea, but, as yet has not left the squadron pending the arrival of Captain Tracy.



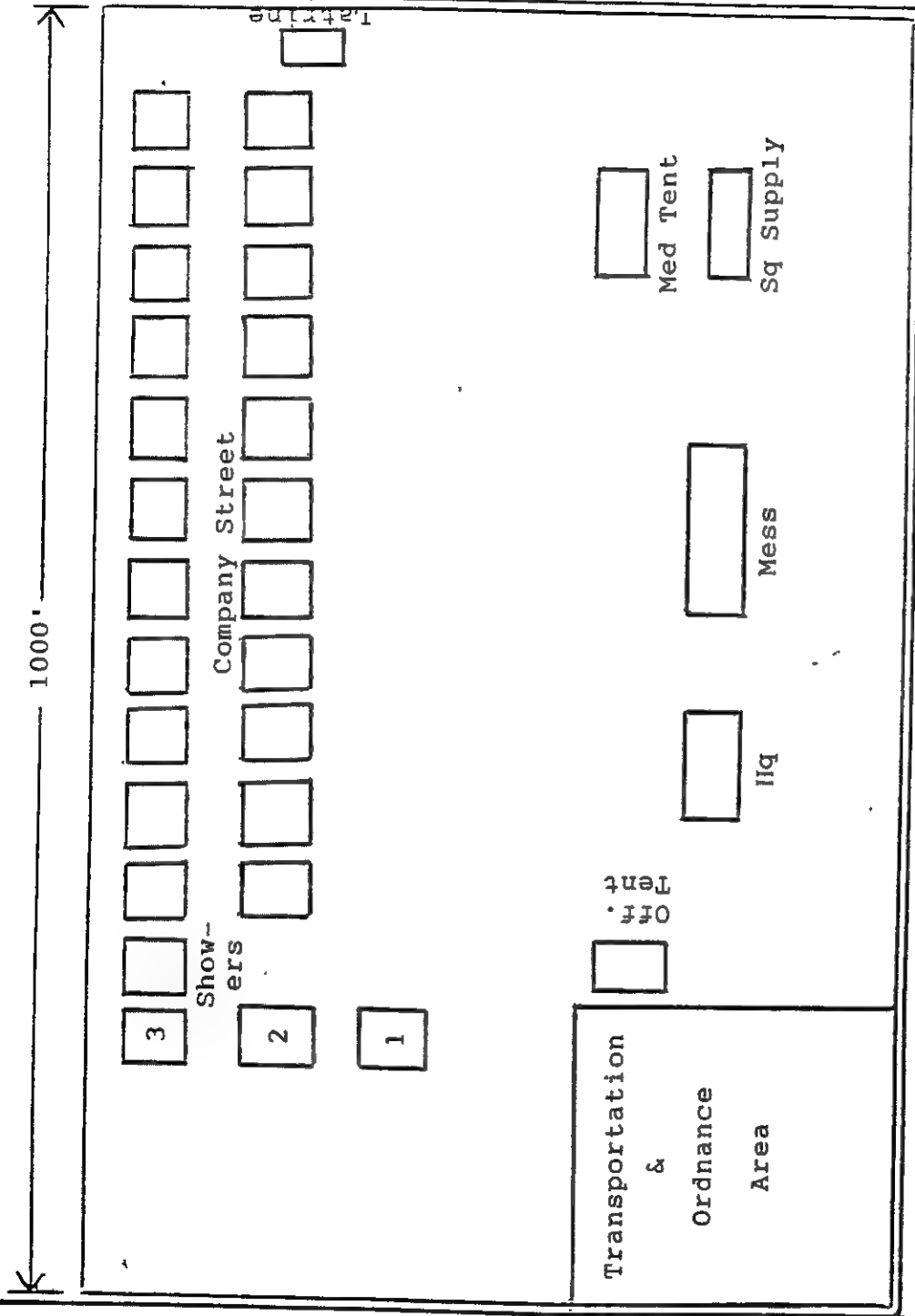
Investigate this case for the purpose of determining whether or not the person named herein is a person who is a threat to the national defense of the United States.

SECRET

NOEMFOUR ISLAND
5000-100-100-100







306th Airdrome Squadron Area
Noemfoor Island, N.E.I., New Guinea

APD 704

8/4/44 to 12/25/44

S E C R E T

AIR FORCE: FIFTH AIR FORCE
COMMAND : V AFSvC
GROUP : 64th Sv Group
UNIT : 306th Adrm Sq

SQUADRON HISTORY AND RECORD OF EVENTS
306TH AIRDROME SQUADRON
1 Sept to 30 Sept 1944 Inclusive

The primary mission of an Airdrome Squadron is the operation of an airdrome and carrying out first and second echelon maintenance on all types of aircraft. Since the arrival of the Squadron to Noemfoor Island, for August 1944, much had been accomplished in the way of fulfilling that primary mission.

The Engineering Department with its component sections was operating alert crews on both the Kornasoren Air Strip and the Kamiri Air Strip and during the month serviced more than 150 engines of various types.

The Ordnance and Armament Departments had been operating on the line and, during the month of September, they had loaded more than 200 tons of bombs and untold thousands of rounds of ammunition.

More than 2,000,000 gallons of gasoline were hauled and distributed by the Refueling Section of the Engineering Department.

The Communications Section has been maintaining and operating the Base Operations and they have been doing their job in a superior manner. In fact, they have been the nerve center of the Kornasoren Strip.

They have established three-way radio communication between a radio jeep (which operates on the strip proper, parking planes, etc.), the "Alert" shack where the Engineering Department is located, and Base Operations itself. If a plane lands and has some sort of mechanical trouble or needs gasoline, the radio jeep immediately notifies the alert shack of the plane's need, and a new crew is dispatched to the crippled plane to repair it. A very fast and efficient system which deserves commendation.

In addition, the Engineering Section had eight aircraft assigned to it which they were required to maintain. These planes have been so well taken care of that at least half of the number have gone as long as two weeks without having anything done to them other than routine checks and refueling.

SQUADRON HISTORY AND RECORD OF EVENTS
306TH AIRDROME SQUADRON
1 Sept to 30 Sept 1944 Inclusive
(Continued)

It has been the practice of the crew-chiefs in charge of the planes to fly with the pilot in order to render assistance in case of any mechanical malfunction. These men are not being paid flight pay for the time they spend in the air. Needless to say, the men are not complaining about it because they all like to fly. Nevertheless, they are due the flight status which is rightfully theirs if they continue to fly.

The largest operation for the Squadron during the month of September was the staging of the "Jolly Rogers" Bomb Group on 29 September, in preparation for what proved to be the longest B-24 raid in history.

The Bomb Group landed at the Kornasoren Air Strip at approximately 1400, 29 September and were immediately parked by the radio jeep with a minimum loss of time and confusion.

With the planes of the "Jolly Rogers" Group taken care of, the transient section of the 306th went into action. As each bomber landed and was parked, a truck appeared to take the air crews to the transient area. At the camp, the air crews found cots, blankets and mosquito bars for their use, as well as showers and eating facilities.

After a few hours rest, the air crews were again provided with transportation. They found their planes ready to go. Extra bomb-bay gasoline tanks had been installed and filled, the engines had been revved, checked and topped off, so that the planes were carrying every ounce of gasoline they could hold.

Take-off time was set at 0100 hours, 30 September, and by 0300 hours, more than seventy (70) bombers had taken to the air. It was later disclosed that they struck at the oil center of Balikpapan on the eastern coast of Borneo where they dropped seventy-four (74) tons of bombs. The fliers scored hits on Japanese oil refineries, a power plant and damaged a 2,000-ton vessel. The heavyweights encountered 30 Japanese interceptors and knocked down 7 of them. Three Liberators failed to return. The men of this Squadron are proud that they had a part in that - even though the part was small.

On 16 September a slight change in duties resulted for 1st Lt Joseph A. Auth who was assigned the additional duty of Historical Officer vice 1st Lt William Friga Jr relieved, and for 1st Lt Frederick W. Strisko, who was assigned the added duty of Information and Education Officer.

SQUADRON HISTORY AND RECORD OF EVENTS
306TH AIRDROME SQUADRON
1 Sept to 30 Sept 1944 Inclusive
(Continued)

During the past month the morale of the Squadron improved considerably. Most of the improvement was due to the fact that the "homes" of the men were finally constructed and neatly arranged. In addition, three volley ball courts had been erected and the men played on them nightly. Then too, a great many more organizations moved onto the island and a large majority of them brought their own movie projectors with them. This affords a wonderful opportunity for the men to go to a different movie every night. In fact, if it was not for the movies, there would be a great many psychoneurotic cases cropping up. That, of course, is only one man's opinion.

There were several admissions to the hospital during the month but only two cases of a fairly serious nature. Cpl Herbert J. Tharrington of the Ordnance Section was admitted on 12 September and was evacuated and transferred four days later on 16 September to the Detachment of Patients Hospital, APO 565. On 11 September 1944 1st Lt Joseph A. Auth was reassigned and joined from the Detachment of Patients Hospital, APO 565, where he had been undergoing treatment for a mild stomach disorder. S Sgt Edson R. Potter was reassigned and joined from the same hospital on 24 September.

Captain Ellsworth M. Tracy, Sgt Herbert M. Waggoner, Sgt Charles A. Whitley and Cpl Alex Stadnitzki became members of the Squadron during the past month.

Captain Tracy took the place of Captain Oscar J. Fatum, Squadron Surgeon, who was transferred to the 119th Station Hospital at Finschafen, New Guinea. It can be said that Captain Tracy has proved himself an asset to the Squadron by the many works he has caused to be done, such as the erection of permanent showers, a separate dispensary, new cleaning facilities for mess gear and a fly-proof mess hall.

Sergeant Frank S. Hemze covered himself with glory on 8 September 1944 when he, alone and unaided, forced his way into a crashed B-25 and rescued the pilot and co-pilot. Disregarding his personal safety, even though the danger of the ship catching fire and was imminent, Sgt Hemze forced his way into the wreckage of the plane. Although severely shocked by bare electric wires, he had the presence of mind to inject a tube of morphine into the leg of the pilot who was pinned in the cockpit before he tried to extract him from the wreck. For this gallant deed, Sgt Hemze has been recommended for an award of the Soldier's Medal.

The strength of the Squadron on 30 Sept 44 was 258 EM and 11 Officers, with 4 EM and 1 Officer in the hospital.

Compiled and written by:
Cpl Robert E Davidson,
306th Adrm Sq.

JOSEPH A AUTH
1st Lt., AC
Historical Officer

S E C R E T

AIR FORCE: Fifth Air Force
COMMAND : V AFSvC
GROUP : 64th Sc Group
UNIT : 306th Adrm Sq

306TH AIRDROME SQUADRON

APO 704

MONTHLY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO 1.

Period: 20 July 1944 to 20 August 1944 Date: 16 Sept 1944

I.

Individual Cases: None

II.

Rumors: "Most of Biak Island's units are being evacuated because a plague is running rampant." This rumor was taken seriously by many. Few had the thought of being stranded here. A notice stating the fallacy was posted. The results were positive. Source of rumor undetected.

"General MacArthut reported missing while on a routine inspection flight". Before being successfully checked, this rumor reached about four per-cent of the men. Since few men heard it, we were able to counteract it immediately. The exact source was undetermined.

III.

Propaganda activity: Enemy newscasts have an audience out of curiosity. It has been noted that the men take heed of Tokyo Rose's warnings that Japanese raids are in the offing. However, the lack of enemy air activity has definitely shaken her prestige. Swing music played over Japanese radio stations tended to improve morale.

IV.

Morale: At present the morale of the men is low. Lack of organized area, lack of showers, poor mail service, lack of writing paper, and little work in their Military Occupational Specialties were the main causes. The fact that they have not as yet oriented themselves to overseas life has much to do with the state of morale. This condition promises considerable improvement within a week. It is our belief that the men will be doing their own work shortly.

S E C R E T

Monthly Intelligence Summary No. 1: (Cont'd)

V.

Units Covered by this report: 306th Airdrome Squadron, APO 704

VI.

Positive Security Measures: "DO'S and DON'TS" of censorship have been posted.

Rules on blackout discipline and interpretation of air raid signals have been posted. No violations.

Men have been cautioned against souvenir hunting.

A perimeter guard has been established and the men have been schooled as to its importance. The results were positive.

Security is constantly stressed and exercised. However, transient crews tend to practice "loose talk". One was quoted as saying his unit was on its way from Los Negros and was expected here the fifth of September. His unit arrived on that date. Our men have been instructed to discourage such conversations.

On 10 Aug 1944, while clearing away the area for tentage, one of the men detected a Booby Trap of the Hand Grenade type. The grenade was lodged in the crotch of a stump in such a manner that the wire could not be seen. Consequently, anyone removing it would result in a direct casualty. The soldier reported the find to the Commanding Officer immediately. The area was roped off and an Engineering O from a nearby Infantry unit disarmed it. We were gratified that our men seriously heeded lectures against souvenir hunting.

VII.

Remarks and Questions: The Intelligence Officer has been appointed Base Operations Officer. He is extremely occupied in organizing operations. Therefore, he can devote very little time to Intelligence work. However, the Intelligence Specialist is devoting full time to the job.

Plans have been made for a situation map, Rumor Board, news reports and War Talks.

s/ Frederick W. Strisko
t/ FREDERICK W. STRISKO,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Intelligence Officer.

I CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE COPY:

s/ Joseph A. Auth
JOSEPH A. AUTH
1st Lt., A. C.
Adjutant

306TH AIRDROME SQUADRON
APO 704

1 October 1944

SUBJECT: Quarterly History of Medical Activities (Auth AR 40-1005)
SG8 Ltr., 31 December 1942.

TO : Headquarters, Far East Air Force, APO 925, Attn: Surgeon,
(Thru Command Surgeon).

QUARTERLY HISTORY OF MEDICAL ACTIVITIES

1. The 306th Airdrome Squadron, activated at Geiger Field, Spokane, Washington on 5 August 1943, later trained at Peterson Field, Colorado Springs, Colorado, and Pueblo Army Air Base, Pueblo, Colorado. Embarking on 15 May 1944, an uneventful crossing followed and the Squadron landed at APO 322, Unit 1 on 12 June 1944 where a camp was set up. Rain and mud made the stay of three weeks disagreeable. However, it was soon over and the unit embarked again, this time being transferred to APO 704, after twenty-nine days on board ship.

On reaching APO 704, a low coral island, the squadron area was designated and on 4 August 1944 the job of clearing the jungle began. A thick covering of underbrush had to be removed. It was then apparent that there are several elevated portions, which are now serving naturally as sights for living quarters and administrative buildings. The surface drainage has caused no real problem. However, a foundation of coral from three inches to three feet below the surface makes for difficulty in digging latrines and garbage pits. Leaking pits built in the approved manner fail to soak. The weather since arrival has been agreeable, with cool nights and hot days. The humidity, always high, causes some discomfort. Rains have been moderately frequent and intense, but of short duration.

The squadron dispensary has served the squadron and has given medical care to casualties who have been temporarily stationed at this camp. The military occupations of this unit has required some men to work long hours but no ill effects have been noted to date. The functions of the squadron since arrival at APO 704 had been the servicing and refueling of planes, ordnance and armament in preparation of raids, operation of the air strip and the operation of a transient camp. The organization is that of a single squadron, operating at present under the direction of the 64th Service Group.

The only important transfer of personnel occurred in the Medical Department. Captain Oscar J. Fatum, liked and respected by all, was transferred to the 119th Station Hospital, 8 August 1944, and his place has been filled by Captain Ellsworth M. Tracy. The Table of Organization has remained well filled, with no significant shortages or overages. No replacements have joined. Pfc. Lloyd Gingrich was promoted to that rank 1 July 1944, otherwise no promotions have been made in medical personnel. The medical enlisted personnel have been well trained, competent and faithful in the performance of their duties, and enjoy the confidence of the members of the squadron. There have been no losses from combat. Two men have been evacuated because of neuropsychiatric disorders.

A very conscientious effort has been made always to improve the technique and knowledge of all. No recent medical literature has been available. The present medical officer was able to secure a few books before joining the squadron, but the supply is pitifully inadequate and the chances for study, either by direct contact with patients or from reading, is scanty. There are no staff meetings, no facilities for the exchange of ideas, no stimulating discussions with other medical officers. The surgeon, who has spent fourteen years in the study and practice of medicine, to the exclusion of all other activities, has wondered if his contribution is as great as it could be otherwise or under other circumstances.

The enlisted personnel all received specialized schooling before coming overseas. They have participated with the squadron in all tactical exercises. The technical training has continued daily, and at least an hour a day set aside for discussion of medical subjects.

Before leaving the United States, all equipment allowed was procured except for a second ambulance which is needed because of medical attendance on the flight line. The replacement of supplies has been from the Medical Supply of the 64th Service Group. This agency has been most cooperative and have supplied all essential needs promptly. Equipment has been suitable for the work required. No significant shortages have been encountered and no combat exchange required. Supplies have been used sparingly and all medicines have been administered in the dispensary, so that there may be no excuse to be thrown away by a man whose cure follows by a few minutes his call to the dispensary. The present surgeon was not present at the time supplies were packed, but it is obvious that it was well done. All were well boxed and careful shipping lists made the unpacking orderly and efficient.

The sanitation has been satisfactory, and as time progresses is becoming excellent. While at APO 322, Unit 1, water was chlorinated in lister bags by medical personnel. At the present station chlorinated water for cooking and drinking purposes is procured at an authorized water point and drawn to the area in two two-hundred gallon water trailers. Water for showers and laundry is piped into the area and the supply is adequate. A new mess hall has been built to replace the temporarily inadequate installation. It has a tin roof, coral floor and is screened. Masonite table tops have given the mess hall a neat appearance and have been easy to clean. Field rations are supplied and apparently there has been a magnificent supply of some items, as they reappear at frequent intervals. However, the food has been well prepared, has been good and there is no real reason for complaint.

A soakage pit for disposal of fluid kitchen wastes built in the usual manner has not worked well because of the hard coral in the area. Garbage is thrown into a pit, burned and a thin layer of dirt thrown over it each day.

The personnel have lived in squad and pyramidal tents supported by frames made from poles. There has been adequate space, and ventilation has been excellent. A dispensary, twelve by fourteen feet, was constructed by the medical personnel. A frame of peeled logs support a tarpaulin for the roof. The lower four feet of the

Sides were covered with tar paper and the rest screened. A white, coral sand floor gives a neat appearance to the room. Spray paint was used on shelves made from rough lumber.

The usual tropical insects and vermin have been present, but none have made themselves felt as yet. The clearing of all underbrush and frequent spray of all standing water have them well under control. Tropical diseases have not appeared, except for mild fungus infections. The case of recurrent malaria, originally contracted in Panama, was hospitalized. It proved to be mild and the soldier returned to duty in about two weeks. Fungus infections have been treated in the dispensary in the acute stage with 20% gentian violet, followed in a few days by a combination of salicylic acid, benzoic acid and alcohol. Results so far have been gratifying.

Fortunately there is nothing to report on war injuries, as there have been none. The neuropsychiatric cases have been evacuated; one officer and one enlisted man. The ultimate disposition of these cases is not known. From a general observation of the squadron and daily contact with as many men as possible, it has seemed that the mental hygiene has been satisfactory. The squadron has been going through the transition period between training and the actual performance of the work for which trained. This transition, easy for some, has been harder for others and must take longer. The work the squadron has been doing is in the most part specialized and that for which the men are qualified. Those who have observed the squadron during the last three months, state that there was a notable improvement in the mental condition of the troops following assignment to this technical work which they came to perform.

No cases remarkable enough to warrant comment have been seen. No venereal diseases have appeared and none are expected as there is no opportunity for transmission in the classical manner.

Motion pictures have been plentiful, and although old, have been well attended and appreciated. Volley ball courts have been built and many spirited games have added to the pleasure and morale of the soldiers. The American Red Cross has been available and accessible at the 64th Service Group. The issue of beer from the homeland has raised the morale far more than could be expected from its alcoholic content. In the midst of war someone thought it was important to send this token to the men, and their response and gratitude has shown that the effort was not in vain.

For the Commanding Officer:

ELLSWORTH M. TRACY
Captain, MC
Squadron Surgeon.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

306TH AIRDROME SQUADRON
APO 704

20 October 1944

SUBJECT: Monthly Intelligence Summary No. 3
Period Covered 21 September to 20 October Inclusive.
TO : Intelligence Officer, 64th Service Group, APO 704

1. Individual Cases: None

2. Rumors: The rumor that the Japanese had dispersed gas over Moratai caused a degree of concern among the men. Some took their gas masks to the line while others kept them at close hand during the night. Immediately after hearing the rumor, a notice was posted on our "Rumor Board" refuting it and the fact that the rumor was mendacious was announced over the public address system. The results were definitely positive. The rumor was traced back to a transient pilot whose name we failed to obtain. In all such cases the source usually comes from transient personnel.

Recently there has been considerable speculation among the men concerning the imminent invasion of the Philippine Islands. Some heard that there is a large convoy of ships lying off Hollandria; that large concentrations of armored and infantry units are pouring into Los Negros. The source was traced to transient personnel. We find that rumors of this type are extremely difficult to check and would welcome suggestions for remedial measures.

3. Propaganda Activity: The recent enemy newscasts concerning "our huge naval and air losses" were received with invective laughter. Such information has no adverse effect on the men of this unit.

4. Morale: The morale of the unit as a whole is good with the exception of the Engineering Section. Due to the loss of their Eng O, whom they admired greatly, their morale is low. However, this has not in any way effected their efficiency.

5. Units Covered By This Summary: 306th Airdrome Squadron.

6. Positive Security Measures: Bulletins stating the changes in censorship regulations are posted.

Charge of Quarters is to see that there are no fires in the area after 1830. He is also directed to shut off power unit in the event of a red alert.

The air raid of October ninth showed numerous violations of blackout security. The master switch was thrown off immediately but burning cigarettes were perceived here and there. These were

C O N F I D E N T I A L

6. Positive Security Measures: (Cont'd)

put out after quick and severe reprimand. An adjacent unit was the last to black out and as a result one of the passing enemy aircraft dive-bombed their area accurately. However, no serious casualties.

The red alert of October tenth found the whole island in a state of confusion. The units were either confused by orders given or were not properly instructed

A bulletin stating discrepancies and ordering corrections was posted. The men were informed that any further violations would result in court-martial proceedings.

In our area and the area adjacent to it, five galvanized roofs of tin form a circle and henceforth a perfect moonlight target. We recommend the roofs be painted.

In a concentrated effort to control "loose talk", all personnel holding positions of responsibility have been called in and lectured to on security. The outcome of these informal discussions has been most gratifying. We intend to repeat this procedure monthly.

Two men have been removed from Operations because of "loose talk" and lack of responsibility. Posters warning men against poor security have been posted.

7. Remarks And Questions: Previously, the Intelligence Officer had devoted almost full time to his duty as Operations Officer. However, the pressure has been lessened and he can relinquish more time to Intelligence work.

Due to the lack of a suitable meeting place, weekly War Talks can't be given. A news board has been erected and the P.A. system has been used for radio newscasts. However, the men visit nearby theatre areas where War Talks are delivered. On October tenth, a representative from the Inspector General's office arrived. He listened to complaints from 1800 on. The men appreciated the opportunity to "get things off their chests".

For the Squadron Commander:

s/ Frederick W. Strisko,
FREDERICK W. STRISKO,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Intelligence Officer

I CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE COPY:

s/ Joseph A Auth,
JOSEPH A AUTH,
1st Lt., A. C.,
Adjutant

S E C R E T

306TH AIRDROME SQUADRON

APO 704

AG 314.7

9 November 1944

SUBJECT: Historical Data for the Month of October, 1944

TO : Commanding General, Fifth Air Force, APO 710.
(ATTN: Historical Officer) (THRU: Channels)

The men of the 306th Airdrome Squadron found that the business of war is extremely scholastic once an organization such as it arrives in a combat area. This situation did not become apparent to the Squadron until they had been on Noemfoor Island, Netherlands East Indies for two months and had completely set up their living and working installations and were carrying out their duties to which they had been assigned. Since the invasion of the Philippine Islands it has been the hope of almost each and every man in the Squadron that the unit will move to the new scene of battle soon.

During the past month the Ordnance Section of the Squadron did a magnificent job of servicing the 417th Bomb Group (A-20's) with over 250 tons of bombs and 662,500 rounds of .50 caliber ammunition. These men were operating on a 24-hour a day schedule, as the 417th Bomb Group carried out extensive bombing and strafing attacks directed against the Japanese on the islands of the Netherlands East Indies and the Philippine Islands.

The Engineering Department carried on the first and second echelon maintenance on planes of the 309th Bomb Wing and all transient aircraft using the Kamiri and Kornasoren air strips. The Refueling Section of the Engineering Department serviced aircraft with more than 700,000 gallons of gasoline during the month of October.

The transient camp operated by the Squadron did a large volume of business during the past month when they provided quarters for more than a thousand transient personnel and served more than seven thousand meals to transients.

1st Lt Joseph A Auth, Adjutant, and his three assistants, T/Sgt Wilson Smith, Cpl Charles Chittim and Pfc Gordon Chatfield are operating the transient camp and are doing a fine job routing through the men who are detained on Noemfoor Island.

S E C R E T

Letter, 306th Airdrome Squadron, APO 704, Dated 9 Nov 1944, file no. AG 314.7, Subject: "Historical Data for the Month of Oct 1944" (Cont'd)

At 0330, 9 October 44, Noemfoor underwent an air raid. One incendiary bomb fell within a hundred yards of the Squadron area. It landed about 15 feet from a mess hall operated by Hq & Hq Sq of the 13th Air Force and blew in the side and the roof of one portable building. The bomb might not have been dropped if a light had been left burning after the red alert sounded.

A red alert which lasted for ten minutes was sounded at approximately 1530, 16 Oct 1944, but there was no raid.

While in the process of carrying bombs from the bomb dump to the line, a bomb truck tipped over and severely injured the driver, Cpl Robert E Little, on 11 Oct 1944. He was removed to the 361st Station Hospital where it was discovered that he suffered a broken leg. From there he was transferred to the Detachment of Patients, hospital unknown, at APO 565, enroute to the United States.

During the month thirteen men were transferred to the Squadron and twelve were transferred out of the Squadron. Most of the new men were sent in by the VAFSvC and were, for the most part, recent arrivals from the United States. The majority of the men had been recently reclassified and knew little about the work their classification called for.

The morale of the Squadron was not on an equal level with the morale rating of the previous month. One contributing factor was the mail situation, which seems to grow worse instead of better.

Capt William T Bakel, former Engineering O and more recently Gen Supply O, was transferred to the 308th Adrm Sq., 50th Service Group, and Capt Hubert W Knight, formerly of the 308th Adrm Sq, was transferred to this organization and appointed Engineering O.

At the end of the month the strength of the organization was 264 EM and 11 O's, a gain of three EM over the previous month.

(Signed)
JOSEPH A. AUTH,
1st Lt., A. C.,
Historical Officer

S E C R E T

306TH AIRDROME SQUADRON

APO 704

AG 314.7

SUBJECT: Historical Data for the Month of November, 1944

TO : Commanding General, Fifth Air Force, APO 710
(ATT: Historical Section) THRU: Channels

The 306th Airdrome Squadron located on Noemfoor Island off the coast of Dutch New Guinea completed six and a half months of overseas duty on 30 November 1944. During these six and a half months a great many changes had occurred in the Squadron. Four of the original twelve officers who came overseas with the Squadron were no longer with us and eight enlisted men had been transferred out.

During the past month the Ordnance Section of the Squadron were still servicing the 417th Bomb Group (M) with bombs and ammunition - loading over 260 tons of bombs and approximately 200,000 rounds of ammunition. As was the case during the month of October so it was with this past month: the Ordnance Section still maintained a 24-hour working schedule as the 417th Bomb Group (M) were continuing their extensive bombing and strafing attacks on Japanese installations.

The engineering Department carried on its first and second echelon maintenance on planes of the 13th Air Force, a plane of the 42nd Bomb Group (H) and all transient aircraft which landed at the Kornasoren airstrip. The Refueling Section of the Engineering Department serviced aircraft with more than 1,000,000 gallons of gasoline during the month of November.

The transient camp operated by the Squadron continued to handle a large volume of the transient traffic and accommodated more than 750 transients. Approximately 13,479 meals were served to the transients in the Squadron mess hall.

1st Lt Anthony J. Anconetani, Asst Tech Supply O, a member of the Squadron for over a year, was transferred to the 80th Airdrome Squadron on 4 Nov 1944, per par 7, Special Order #179, Hq., 64th Service Group. He was well liked by all members of the Squadron and the men were sorry to see him leave.

S E C R E T

Subj Ltr., Historical Data for the Month of November, 1944,
dtd 8 Dec 1944. (cont'd)

Captain James S. Stone, Commanding Officer, was transferred from the Squadron on 8 Nov 1944, per par 5, Special Order #274, Hq., V AFSvC, and Captain Hubert W. Knight, Engineering Officer, assumed command. (See inclosure #1)

Sgt Lee Leyba and Pfc Joseph A. Glatfelter were the first members of the Squadron to sustain disabling injuries when they were victims of a "flash" fire which occurred 8 Nov at one of the island's gasoline dumps. According to the statements made by the men, they were situated on a small hummock in a clearing about two hundred feet from the gas dump when they struck a match to light cigarettes and a sheet of flame rolled over the hummock and enveloped them in flames within a matter of two or three seconds. The men stumbled out to the road near the dump where a passing 361st Station Hospital ambulance picked them up and rushed them to the hospital. Both men are on the road to recovery.

First Sergeant Ernest M. McAdams left the Squadron 12 Nov 1944. He requested that be relieved of his rank and position and transferred from the Squadron. He was reduced to the grade of private, then appointed Staff Sergeant and transferred to the 93rd Service Squadron. Sergeant McAdams had nine years service in the Army. He served in the National Guard, in the Infantry and in the Corps of Military Police prior to joining the Air Corps. He had been a 1st Sergeant for over two years and had earned the title of "First Soldier" while with the Infantry. He was well liked by the men of the Squadron, although they did not take too kindly to the discipline he tried to enforce.

Technical Sergeant William H. Mullenieux, a new member of the Squadron and formerly Senior Drill Instructor at Greensboro Army Air Base, Basic Training Center #10, Greensboro, North Carolina, became the new First Sergeant.

The morale of the men improved considerably during the past month. The construction of a Day Room, complete with a lending library and ping-pong tables, and the construction of a softball diamond and the promotion of a softball league made up of teams from the various sections of the Squadron, contributed largely to the high morale. Another contributing factor was the arrival of mail boats with newspapers and packages. Some of the packages were Christmas gifts and the men were overjoyed to receive them.

S E C R E T

Subj Ltr., Historical Data for the Month of November, 1944,
dtd 8 Dec 1944 (cont'd)

Captain Hubert W. Knight, Commanding Officer, was admitted to the 361st Station Hospital on 18 Nov and 1st Lt Joseph A. Auth, Adjutant, assumed command (See inclosure #2). On 29 Nov 1944, Captain Hubert W. Knight was relieved of assignment and command and transferred to Det of Patients, hospital unknown, APO 920, per par 1, Special Order #101, 361st Station Hospital.

Corporal Cliva L. Capps was reduced to the grade of private for inefficiency on 23 Nov 1944. There were no promotions during the month, and Sgt Charles A Whitely was the only man of the Squadron to receive a furlough. He went on DS to McKay Rest Area, Australia.

Six men joined the Squadron within the past thirty days and one man was transferred out. The total strength of the organization as of 30 Nov 1944, was 268 Enlisted Men and 9 Officers.

Major Boris L. Saunders, was assigned and joined from Hq & Hq Sq., 64th Service Group, this station, and assumed command per par 7, Special Orders #283, Hq., VAFSVC, APO 72. Major Saunders has some very definite ideas as to how he wants the Squadron run and it is felt by all men that the 306th Airdrome Squadron will benefit by his assumption of command.

The information contained in this report was compiled and written by Cpl Robert E. Davidson, Headquarters Section.

For the Squadron Commander:

(Signed) Mike W. Pepper
MIKE W. PEPPER,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Historical Officer.

3 Incl:

- Incl 1 - 306th SO #27, dtd 8 Nov 44
- Incl 2 - 306th SO #30, dtd 18 Nov 44
- Incl 3 - Monthly Intell Summary #4

306TH AIRDROME SQUADRON

APO 704

20 November 1944

SUBJECT: MONTHLY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 4. Period Covered:
20 October to 20 November Inclusive

TO : A. C. of S., A-2, Far East Air Force, APO 925.
(THRU: Channels)

1. INDIVIDUAL CASES: None

2. RUMORS: The rumor that radar is being moved out of this particular APO did not reach many of the men. Those who did hear it showed concern but not to the point of alarm. Since the rumor reached but a few men and for some unknown reason did not spread further, we thought it feasible not to post it on our "rumor board". We believe that in this case it would circulate the rumor rather than suppress it. The source was not determined. It seems that it barely forced its way out here and there.

3. PROPAGANDA ACTIVITY: Because of the music accompanying enemy newscasts, the programs have been rebroadcasted over the Address System. In one instance, during the enemy news summary, a few men happened to arrive in the area and heard that "many of our ships were sunk in the recent naval battle". The men thought it was an allied broadcast because of the perfect English spoken and were quite disturbed. To avoid such occurrences, we rebroadcast the music only and cut off the news announcers.

4. MORALE: At present the morale of the unit is excellent. We have a new Commanding Officer and the men are impressed with his sense of fairness and good leadership. Due to his cooperation, a Day Room and a ball diamond were constructed within four days. With the arrival of a new First Sergeant, details have been equally distributed regardless of rank or position. The above reasons plus the arrival of literature and packages have made the morale of the Squadron what it is today. We hope that this state of mind continues.

5. UNITS COVERED BY THIS SUMMARY: 306TH AIRDROME SQUADRON.

S E C R E T

6. POSITIVE SECURITY MEASURES: A series of lectures have been given on the Phillipine Islands covering military importance, social life and security. The latter was especially stressed. Examples of negligence in security were cited. The men listened attentively.

In a compulsory formation, our unit attended a very interesting and enlightening lecture on Japanese infiltration methods given by a competent infantry Officer. We are sure that the men derived a great deal of benefit from his talk.

The usual precautions have been taken for blackout security. Charge of quarters is to see that there are no fires in the area after 1830. He is instructed to shut off the power unit in the event of an alert.

All Department heads have been cautioned to destroy by burning all classified papers that are of no use. Incinerators have been provided for all departments. The fact that the destruction must be carried out by trustworthy personnel has been stressed. Periodic checks as to methods of filing such papers are made weekly without notice. The results have been positive.

All responsible personnel were called in this month for an individual, informal discussion on security and noted infractions were made known then. We asked them for suggestions concerning better security measures. The results of these informal chats have improved security ninety per-cent.

The Squadron safe has two locks and is guarded by Charge of Quarters during off hours. The Commanding Officer has the keys and the safe is opened in his or the Adjutant's presence. The number of personnel handling classified papers is limited.

7. REMARKS AND QUESTIONS: The Intelligence Officer and the unit NCO are working full time. The men are informed of the world news through the medium of newscasts, Base and Group news sheets and situation maps. The latter is located in the Day Room.

For the Squadron Commander:

s/ Frederick W. Strisko,
t/ FREDERICK W. STRISKO,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Intelligence Officer.

I CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE IS A TRUE COPY OF THE ORIGINAL:

(Signed) Joseph A. Auth
JOSEPH A AUTH,
1st Lt., A. C.,
Adjutant

S E C R E T

306TH AIRDROME SQUADRON
APO 70

SECRET
Auth: CO
Init: _____
29 Jan 45

AG 314.7

SUBJECT: Historical Data for the Month of December, 1944.

TO : Commanding General, Fifth Air Force, APO 710
(ATT: Historical Officer) (THRU: CHANNELS)

The stay of the 306th Airdrome Squadron at Noemfoor Island in the Netherlands East Indies came to a close during the month of December. The four and a half months spent there was the longest time spent at any one base by the Squadron.

Until the 21st of the month, usual duties connected with the operation of the Kornasoren Airstrip and the Transient Camp were carried on. The Engineering Department continued their work of performing first and second echelon maintenance work on all transient aircraft, and the few planes which were assigned to it. In addition, the Engineering Department was charged with the responsibility of salvaging several unserviceable or "war weary" fighter and bomber planes and it can be said that they did an excellent job.

The Ordnance Section continued their splendid work of servicing the 417th Bombardment Group (L) with bombs and ammunition. More than 200 tons of bombs were loaded and fused for the planes of the 417th, and 132,000 rounds of .50 caliber ammunition were supplied.

The 417th Bombardment Group (L) expressed their appreciation of the fine work and cooperation they had received from the Ordnance Section by a letter of commendation signed by the 417th Group Ordnance Officer, with a first endorsement by Lt Colonel Howard S. Ellmore, Commanding Officer, adding his appreciation. Another endorsement was added by Major George W. S. Way, Jr., 64th Group Commanding Officer, expressing his appreciation. (See incl. #10)

1st Lt Mike W. Pepper, Ordnance, is the Ordnance Officer of this Squadron and he can be proud of the work done by his section. The great job done by the Ordnance Section is all the more remarkable due to the fact that there are only thirty-one men in the Section with twenty-eight of them actually doing the work of servicing planes.

S E C R E T

Subj Ltr: Historical Data for the Month of December, 1944.
(Continued)

The Refueling Section of the Engineering Department ran up a minor record during the month when, in conjunction with the Refueling Section of the 80th Airdrome Squadron, 64th Service Group, they serviced aircraft at the Kornasoren Air Strip with more than 1,500,000 gallons of gasoline.

On December 2nd, Captain Walter A. Thompson, Jr., was assigned the principal duty of Mess-Supply-Transportation Officer. (See incl. #11) Captain Thompson was formerly the Commanding Officer of the Hq. and Hq. Squadron, 64th Service Group, and came to the Squadron with a fine reputation as a good officer.

That same day, T Sgt William H. Mullenieux, Acting First Sergeant, was promoted to the rank of 1st Sergeant per par 8, SO 196, Hq., 64th Service Group.

A classification team from Headquarters, Fifth Air Force visited the Squadron during the month and, as a result, forty-nine men were reclassified. Many of the men were working out of their primary MOS and it was their wish to be reclassified to the MOS they were working under. The classification team's report showed that there are quite a few men in the organization with extensive (and costly) technical training backgrounds who are not being utilized where they could render greater service to the Air Corps. These men will be transferred as soon as possible. In fact, one man, Cpl John W. Bell, 901, was transferred per par 10, SO 327, Headquarters, Fifth Air Force, to the 1543rd Engineer Service Detachment. Corporal Bell was well liked by the members of the Squadron and they were all pleased that he was transferred to a unit where he could do the work for which he had been trained.

Two men were reduced to the grade of Private during the past month: Pfc Merwyn W. Merhige was reduced for misconduct and S Sgt Cleo A. Bosley was reduced for inefficiency.

During the three weeks of the month that the Squadron operated the Transient Camp, more than 9000 meals were served transient personnel, with approximately 500 transients furnished with quarters.

A laundry service was instituted when the Squadron Commander, Major Boris L. Saunders, had a washing machine built. The machine is of the "Rube Goldberg" (home-made) variety and consists of three empty gasoline drums welded together with an axle welded at each end, so that the drums can be turned. The barrels are set on a frame

S E C R E T

Subj Ltr: Historical Data for the Month of December, 1944.
(Continued)

with an engine at one end to furnish the rotary power. An 1100-gallon water tank with a burner underneath furnishes hot water to be used in the laundering process. (See incl #8-Top) The process is very simple: The dirty linen is put into the barrels, hot water and plenty of soap are added and the drums revolved for twenty to thirty minutes. The clothes are then taken out and rinsed. All this is accomplished with very little manual labor!

Before the construction of the washing machine and the institution of the laundering facilities, each man in the Squadron had to have at least one afternoon off a week from his regular duties in order to wash dirty clothes. By the innovation of the machine, a great many man-hours of work did not go to waste, as was previously the case.

The Squadron morale has been excellent. The new Commanding Officer, Major Boris L. Saunders, instituted many benefits which had previously been denied the men. The mess hall was improved, a Coca-Cola machine was made, and "Coke" dispensed four times weekly, and the food served has shown great improvement.

Operations were suspended on the Airstrip and at the Transient Camp on December 21, and preparations for movement to a forward area were begun. By December 24 all of the Squadron equipment had been loaded on trucks and the rest of the camp ready to be vacated at a moment's notice.

At 0700, Christmas Day, the motor convoy moved out of the area to the PE, 20 miles away, and to the USS LST 269, the ship which would carry the Squadron to its destination. At 1900 that night, "ducks" transported the men of the Squadron to the LST and by 0100 December 26, all of the men in the organization were aboard ship and ready to depart.

It was not until the 27th of December, however, before the LST finally moved from the jetty on Noemfoor and headed out to sea. But, before leaving, a last minute shipment of first class mail arrived. The majority of the letters included Christmas greetings to the men from their families and friends and they could not have come at a better time.

From the 27th of the month to the 31st, LST 269, in company with eight other LST's, wended its way northward, moving the 306th Air-drome Squadron to its new location.

S E C R E T

Subj Ltr: Historical Data for the Month of December, 1944.
(Continued)

Two men were left on Noemfoor: Pfc Carl Westbrook, who entered the hospital on December 17th, suffering from psychoneurosis, and Sgt John L. Crump. This brought the strength of the Squadron, as of the 31st of the month, to 267 EM and 10 Officers.

The information contained in this report was compiled and written Cpl Robert E. Davidson, Headquarters Section.

FOR THE SQUADRON COMMANDER:

/s/ William C. Ulrich
/t/ WILLIAM C. ULRICH
2nd Lt., Air Corps
Historical Officer

12 Incl:

Incl #1 to #9 - Squadron Pictures
Incl #10 - Subj Ltr: "Commendation"
Incl #11 - Squadron Orders #32
Incl #12 - Monthly Intelligence Summary No. 5.

H E A D Q U A R T E R S
417TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)
APO 704

WFB/tk

In Reply to:
201.22

2 December 1944

SUBJECT: Commendation.

TO : Commanding Officer, 417th Bomb Group (L), APO 704.

1. The personnel of the 417th Bombardment Group join me in commending the Ordnance Section of the 306th Airdrome Squadron, and in expressing our appreciation and gratitude for the splendid cooperation we have received in our Ordnance activities.

2. First Lieutenant Mike W. Pepper and the capable personnel under his supervision have been constantly on the alert to plan and provide for bombs, ammunition and vehicles for the Air Echelon of this Group. Their valuable assistance in loading airplanes, regardless of the hour, is especially appreciated for a "job well done".

3. All services rendered to the 417th Bombardment Group by the Ordnance Section of the 306th Airdrome Squadron were performed in a superior manner, and typify the esprit de corps and devotion to duty which is exemplary of the finest traditions of the Armed Forces.

s/ William F. Baur,
t/ WILLIAM F. BAUR,
Captain, Ordnance,
Gp Ordnance Officer.

A TRUE COPY:

(signed)

WILLIAM C. ULRICH,
2nd Lt., Air Corps,
Adjutant.

Inclosure #10

201.22

1st Ind

A-tk-II

Hq, 417th Bomb Gp (L), APO 704, 3 Dec 1944

TO: CO, 64th Serv Gp, APO 704.

The undersigned desires to add his appreciation to the Ordnance Section of the 306th Airdrome Squadron for the splendid cooperation that we received. Their valuable assistance has materially contributed to the fulfillment of operations of this Group, and all men concerned are worthy of the highest commendation.

s/ Howard S. Ellmore,
t/ HOWARD S. ELLMORE,
Lt Col, Air Corps,
Commanding.

201.22

2nd Ind

GWSW/cw

HEADQUARTERS, 64th Service Group, APO 704, 8 December 1944.

TO: Commanding Officer, 306th Airdrome Squadron, APO 704

The devotion to duty and eagerness to work demonstrated by Lt Pepper and the Ordnance Section of the 306th Airdrome Squadron is a credit to this Group. The undersigned desires to express his appreciation to the 306th Ordnance Section for their spirit and excellent performance of duty.

s/ George W. S. Way, Jr.,
t/ GEORGE W. S. WAY, JR.,
Major, Air Corps,
Commanding.

A TRUE COPY:

(signed)

WILLIAM C. ULRICH,
2nd Lt, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

306TH AIRDROME SQUADRON

APO 704

1 January 1945

SUBJECT: Quarterly History of Medical Activities (Auth AR 40-1005)
SG8 Ltr., 31 December 1942.

TO : Headquarters, Far East Air Force, APO 925, Attn: Surgeon,
(Thru Command Surgeon).

QUARTERLY HISTORY OF MEDICAL ACTIVITIES

1. Most of the report period was spent at APO 704, the squadron occupying the area previously described. The weather continued about the same, and was comfortable without too much rain or heat. On 25 December 1944, the squadron embarked on LST 269 and were still on board at the first of the year. While on route about half of the men slept in bunks provided and the others on cots set up on the deck. Salt water showers were used except for one day prior to embarking. The salt water showers seemed to aggravate existing skin conditions, although this may have been caused by the coarse soap issued for salt water.

Medical care was given to the squadron plus men stationed in a neighboring transient camp. The number of transients varied from a few to as many as five hundred men. The general health remained good and very few days were lost from work because of sickness. The work performed did not seem to affect the health of the unit adversely. The function of the organization remained as previously reported.

On 20 November 1944 Major Boris L. Saunders, formerly Group Engineering Officer of the 64th Service Group, assumed command. At the same time Capt. Walter A Thompson, Jr., formerly C.O. of the Headquarters Squadron, 64th Service Group, joined the organization. Capt. James S. Stone and Capt. William P. Bakel were assigned to other units. The strength remained at about T/O level with no equipment overages or shortages. The men as a whole seemed qualified to perform the duties assigned to them. There were no losses in medical personnel during the past three months.

The training of the medical personnel continued daily with group meetings, and with discussions of interesting individual patients as the opportunity presented. A few publications were received, those most appreciated being the circulars dealing with specific problems peculiar to the tropics. There were no staff meetings or lectures available for the Medical Officer. Pleasant contacts at the 361st Station Hospital did allow the Medical Officer to keep in touch with current medical thought. Tactical training of the medical personnel was identical to that of the rest of the squadron.

Medical supplies continued to be provided through the 64th Service Group Medical Supply and were adequate. Some items were secured through the 361st Station Hospital. None of any significance were spoiled by the weather. Gelatin capsules soon disintegrated, but no real difficulty was encountered. Property exchange went fairly well, some minor troubles in connection with replacement of

litters at Graves Registration were easily adjusted. Supplies were used as sparingly as possible, otherwise no special steps were taken to conserve them.

Water for drinking was drawn by trailer from an engineer water point. Water for washing was piped into the area, but because of varying salt content was not suitable as mess kit washing water. A new laundry capable of doing the whole squadron laundry was constructed by Lt. Mike W. Pepper and is being moved to the new area. A new mess hall was constructed, water piped into it, and a concrete mess kit washing area built. Garbage was buried and covered each day with a layer of about four inches of dirt.

The men lived in squad tents and although there was plenty of air and space they were unwieldy and have been exchanged for pyramidal tents to be used in the future. There were very few disease-bearing insects. Malaria control was carried on in the usual manner by spraying and draining of standing water.

The only disease peculiar to the tropics encountered were skin diseases, and although two cases required hospitalization, neither were evacuated. On return to the squadron, each has had a recurrence and the final outcome cannot be predicted at present.

There were two cases hospitalized because of neuropsychiatric conditions. One was returned to duty with gratifying results. The second was evacuated and the ultimate disposition is unknown.

There was little enemy activity at APO 704, so that there is little to say about combat activity. One raid with a bomb in the near vicinity caused a good many lethargic men to seek shelter, precipitately in fox holes. This resulted in a good many scratches about the head and more with lots of blood but no real damage.

There was no venereal disease and no problem at APO 704.

There were no injuries as a result of enemy action. A vehicle accident in the line of duty resulted in a compound fracture of both bones of the lower leg of one man who was evacuated. Another man sustained a dislocated elbow while working on gas drums. This case was remarkable in that the three bones forming the elbow were all dislocated but there was no fracture. A third man dislocated his patella while playing volley ball. Both of these men are back at duty with very little limitation.

While at APO 704 there were many moving pictures available and they were well attended. The Red Cross set up a canteen which was much appreciated by the men. Major Saunders was able to provide or procure fresh food for the squadron and also had a coca cola machine built. These two things did much to raise the morale of the men.

The end of the report period finds the squadron on LST 269 proceeding to a new location. Many lessons learned at APO 704, the first camp set up by the squadron, and the long experience of the new Commanding Officer should make it possible to build a camp more quickly, with adequate sanitary facilities from the first.

For the Commanding Officer

ELLSWORTH M. TRACY
Captain, MC
Squadron Surgeon

S E C R E T

306TH AIRDROME SQUADRON
APO 704

20 December 1944

SUBJECT: MONTHLY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 5. Period Covered
20 November to 20 December inclusive.

TO : A. C. of S., A-2, Far East Air Force, APO 925
(THRU: Channels)

1. INDIVIDUAL CASES: None

2. RUMORS: On 26 November 1944, the rumor that two Japanese convoys were on their way to attack this APO and APO 926 caused our men concern. The belief that an enemy convoy was enroute to attack APO 926 was traced to transit flying personnel. Coincidentally, that same evening, a call was made to all theatre areas for our Armament Ordnance personnel to report to the line immediately. The men connected this call with what they heard from the transit personnel. Their imagination stimulated, some believed an enemy convoy was also on its way here. In an effort to halt this talk, an announcement over the Public Address System was made to the effect that the rumor vicious and mendacious. The result was positive.

3. PROPAGANDA ACTIVITY: No adverse effect on our men.

4. MORALE: At present Squadron morale is excellent. Our former Commanding Officer was transferred because of ill health. The new Commanding Officer has won the confidence of the men. With his arrival general reorganization was effected. The mess hall was improved, the Coca Cola machine was built, food showed improvement and the benefits previously denied us are now ours. Our Ordnance Department was given a commendation by the 417th Bomb Group, APO 704, for its excellent work under trying conditions.

5. UNITS COVERED BY THIS SUMMARY: 306th Airdrome Squadron

6. POSITIVE SECURITY MEASURES: At present this unit is alerted. In an effort to further improve security, all Censors have been instructed to be more scrutinizing in their work. The Commanding Officer censors some mail from each department daily. Anyone violating security is called in to explain himself. Men have been instructed not to carry anything of military importance on their person during the pending movement. Plans have been made to guard materials while enroute. Area will be inspected to see that clothing or anything of military value is not left behind. A Defense

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Plan has been formed. Men have been checked for Identification Tags. In conclusion, a lecture covering Gas security was given by the Group Chemical Officer.

7. REMARKS AND QUESTIONS: The Intelligence Officer is working part time due to the fact that he has been recalled as Operations Officer. The Intelligence NCO is working full time. The men are informed of world news through the medium of news casts, Base and Group news sheets and Situation Maps, the latter are located in the Day Room.

For the Squadron Commander:

s/ Frederick W. Strisko,
t/ FREDERICK W. STRISKO,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Intelligence Officer.

DISTRIBUTION:

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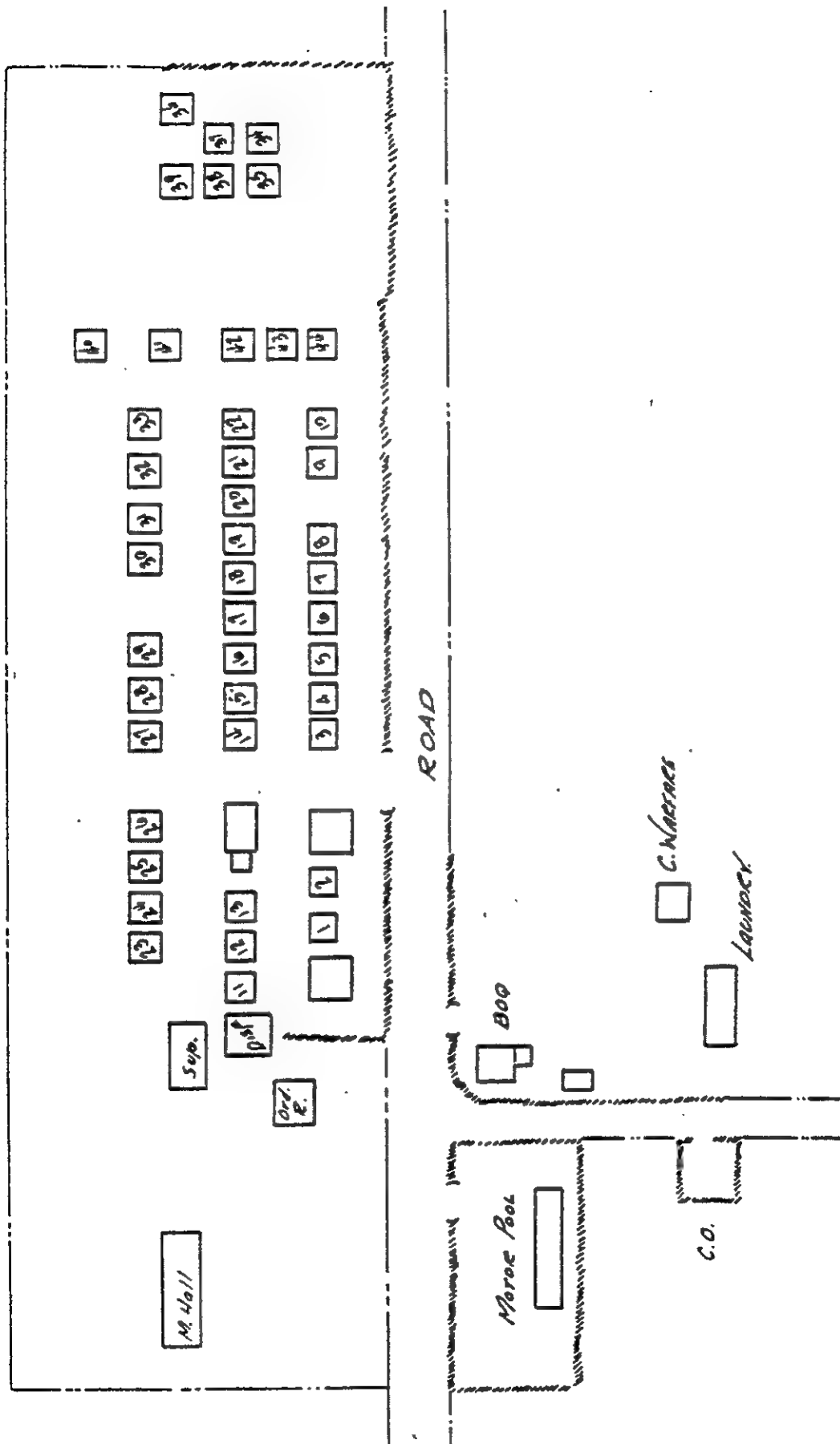
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A TRUE COPY:

(signed)
WILLIAM C. ULRICH,
2nd Lt., Air Corps,
Adjutant.



306TH AIRDROME SQUADRON AREA

RJNMALEY, P.I., APO 70

1/11/45 to 10/15/45

S E C R E T

306TH AIRDROME SQUADRON

APO 70

20 January 1945

SUBJECT: MONTHLY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 6 Period Covered:
20 December to 20 January inclusive.

TO : A. C. of S., A-2, Far East Air Force, APO 925.
(THRU: Channels)

1. INDIVIDUAL CASES: None
2. RUMORS: None
3. PROPAGANDA ACTIVITY: No adverse effect on our men.

4. MORALE: At present the morale of the unit is excellent. Our Commanding Officer wasted no effort in setting up our area. Within a few days comfortable tentage facilities were available for the men. There was warm food the first day of arrival. Showers and Mess Hall are under construction. This change back to civilization has refreshed the men and has raised many heretofore low spirits.

5. UNITS COVERED BY THIS SUMMARY: 306th Airdrome Squadron.

6. POSITIVE SECURITY MEASURES: While enroute by sea, the men cooperated with Navy Personnel. All regulations were complied with. Upon our arrival a perimeter guard was organized. All men were ordered to stay in the area unless on official business. They have been acquainted with the signals for enemy airborne attack. Personnel have been instructed to have guns available on short notice. Our work details were cautioned to watch for Booby Traps. One grenade was found. The men have been cautioned against discussing military affairs in the presence of Filipinos. During alerts Blackout Security has been positive.

S E C R E T

7. REMARKS AND QUESTIONS: News service is not as yet regularly available. However, remedial measures are in progress.

For the Squadron Commander:

s/ Frederick W. Strisko,
t/ FREDERICK W. STRISKO,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Intelligence Officer.

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A TRUE COPY:

s/ William C. Ulrich,

WILLIAM C. ULRICH,
1st Lt, Air Corps,
Adjutant.

S E C R E T

306TH AIRDROME SQUADRON
APO 70

SECRET
Attn: CO
Init: BLS
Date: 2/9/45

AG 314.7

SUBJECT: Historical Data for the Month of January, 1945

TO : Commanding Officer, V AFSvC, APO 710
Attn: Historical Officer (Thru: Channels)

Luzon, the largest island of the Philippine group, was invaded by U.S. forces on 9 January 1945. U.S.S. LST 269, carrying the 306th Airdrome Squadron, dropped anchor off the invasion beach in Lingayen Gulf on 11 January 1945 - D Day plus two!

It was not until 16 January that the Squadron was able to debark. The debarkation took but a matter of a few hours and movement from the beach to the Squadron area was accomplished within a half hour after landing. The area is located in a barrio of the little town of Binmaley, about two miles from Goatee Air Strip in Lingayen.

By nightfall of the first day, over half the men in the unit were set up in pyramidal tents and the mess hall was in operation and serving hot meals to the troops. No man of the organization ate "C" or "K" rations.

The Squadron's Engineering, Ordnance and Communications Sections began operations on Goatee Air Strip in Lingayen on 17 January 1945 - one day after landing! In addition, organization and construction of the Squadron began. All pyramidal tents were erected and a permanent mess hall, Headquarters building, dispensary and a Squadron supply room were in the first stages of construction.

Due to General MacArthur's policy of giving employment to every able-bodied Filipino willing to work, civilian carpenters and laborers were hired to help with the construction of the area. Competent men were put in charge of crews for the construction of the buildings: Sgt John D Hershey, supervised the construction of the mess hall, Pfc Edward E Osterkamp, of the Medical Department, was assigned to the supervision of the dispensary construction, Tech Sgt Wilson M Smith, Supply Sergeant, was in charge of the construction of Squadron Supply and Cpl Robert E Davidson, a clerk in the Headquarters Section, supervised the construction of the Headquarters building.

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All buildings were erected and occupied within ten days after landing on the island; showers had been built and had been in use three days after landing and the living quarters of the EM and officers had been set and occupied within two days of arrival.

Goatee Air Strip was operating on a twenty-four hour basis and the Squadron was, and is, greatly responsible toward the continuing of this high-speed schedule.

From the date of the opening of the Goatee Strip, on the afternoon of the 16th of January, until the end of the month, the Engineering Department had eleven planes assigned to it, and of these eleven, five were assigned for salvage. In addition to the number of planes assigned, sixty-five transient aircraft had 1st and 2nd echelon maintenance work performed on them by the Aircraft Mechanics. Of these sixty-five planes, seven were A-20's, eight were P-40's, nineteen P-38's, thirteen C-46's, nine P-47's, eight C-47's, one L-4 and one PBY.

It is of interest to note that the great majority of the airplane Mechanics' training had been with B-24 heavy bombers and, prior to the embarkation of the Squadron for overseas, ninety-five percent of their work was with B-24's.

The following is a breakdown of the duties of the members of the Engineering Department: ten men operating base refueling; six men operating the fire and crash truck on the strip; two men at the base tire shop; two men working in the parachute shop of the 64th Service Group; an average of nine men daily on detail at the gas dump and belly tank dump. A total of forty-two men from a section of eighty-nine NOT engaged in actual repair work on planes. Thus, there were only forty-seven AM's (747's and 750's) performing the maintenance work on the seventy-six planes of various types, already enumerated, serviced by the Engineering Section. These men are worthy of the time and money spent for their education and training by the Air Force, and are deserving of any praise or commendation which may be conferred upon them.

Working side by side with the Engineering Department, and keeping pace with it in the volume and quality of work "well done", was the Ordnance Section. The Ordnance Section has a well earned reputation for faithful and superior performance of duty while servicing the 417th Bomb Group (L) at Noemfoor, N.E.I.

From the commencement of operations on the strip to the end of the month, the Ordnance Section serviced planes of the 18th Fighter Group, (13th Air Force) the 82nd Reconnaissance Fighter Group and the 38th Bomb Group (L) with more than 156,000 rounds

S E C R E T

of .50 caliber ammunition and 554,000 lbs of bombs. Eighty percent of the bombs handled were of the 500-lb and 1,000-lb weight.

On the afternoon of the 16th of January, the day the Squadron debarked from LST 269, approximately one hundred fighter planes came in for landings on Goatee Strip. The Communications Section of the Squadron was already on the job and waiting to receive them.

The 68th Army Airways Communication Section, which was to operate the tower on the strip, was still aboard a ship in the bay. The duties of operating the tower, as well as Base Operations, fell upon the Communications Section. These men have had very little experience in tower operations and/or procedure but for four days they did a magnificent job handling the ever increasing volume of traffic on the strip; then the highly trained specialists of the 68th Army Airways Communication System took over.

At present, Base Operations is directing aircraft movements for practically the entire area of Luzon. Three shifts of seven men each keep the "mad house" known as Base Operations running as smoothly as possible.

A few changes in personnel occurred during the month when 2nd Lt William C. Ulrich was transferred to the Squadron from Hq & Hq Sq., 64th Service Group and assigned the principal duty of Adjutant vice Lt Joseph A. Auth, relieved. (See inclosure #1)

1st Lt Frank L. Vogel, Jr., Engineering Officer, was relieved from assignment and assigned to the 80th Airdrome Squadron, this station, on 30 January. That same day, 1st Lt Thomas F Heiser, was transferred from Hq & Hq Sq, 64th Service Group, and assigned the principal duty of Engineering Officer, and 1st Lt Anthony J Anconetani was transferred from the 80th Airdrome Squadron and assigned the principal duty of Assistant Engineering Officer. (See inclosure #2) Lt Anconetani was formerly a member of this Squadron and all the EM and Officers are glad to have him back again.

Sgt John L. Crump, who was admitted to the hospital while the organization was located on Noemfoor, was transferred to the Det. of Patients, hospital unknown, APO 920, per par 1, SO 18, Headquarters 361st Station Hospital, APO 704. Sgt Crump had been in the organization since its activation and all the men were sorry to see him leave.

Pfc Carl A Westbrook, an Ordnance worker, was admitted to the hospital while the unit was located on Noemfoor. He was then transferred to the Det. of Patients, hospital unknown, APO 920, per par 1, SO 132, Headquarters 361st Station Hospital.

S E C R E T

The morale of the Squadron during the month was excellent. Some of the contributing factors were: the good location of the Squadron area (picked by Major Boris L. Saunders, Commanding Officer) in contrast to the areas formerly occupied by the Squadron when it was located at Finschafen, New Guinea, and Noemfoor N.E.I.; the camp itself, WHICH IS THE BEST BY FAR of any now set up on the entire island of Luzon; and the wonderful weather we have experienced since our arrival here.

The strength of the Squadron as of 31 January 1945 was 266 EM and 12 Officers.

Bombing and strafing of enemy installations, equipment and personnel operating from Goatee Strip, helped in a large measure the successful prosecution of the Luzon campaign during the past month. This statement is supported by a sentence taken from the Weekly Intelligence summary number 28 published by A-2 Section, V AFSvC, APO 710: "THE ROLE OF AIR SUPPORT HAS NEVER SHONE BRIGHTER THAN IT HAS ON LUZON THESE PAST FOUR WEEKS".

The men of the 306th Airdrome Squadron are proud to be a part of the fighting forces lifting the yoke of oppression from the Philippine Islands and the Filipino people.

- - -

The information contained in this report was compiled and written by Cpl Robert E. Davidson, Headquarters Section.

For the Commanding Officer:

(Signed)
WILLIAM C. ULRICH,
2nd Lt., Air Corps,
Historical Officer.

6 Incl:
Incl: 1 Sq Order #1
1 Sq Order #2
1 Sq Order #3
1 Sq Area Map
1 Monthly Intell Summary #6
1 Copy "Far East Advance"

FAR EAST ADVANCE

V-1, No. 22

Published by I & E Section
Hq Hq, 64th Sv Gp

1 February 1945

Editor: Corporal Truman J. Keesoy

YANKS 30 MILES FROM MANILA CLOSER TO BAGUIO: SOVIET FORCES LESS THAN 20 MILES FROM BERLIN.

YANKS 30 MILES FROM MANILA

American forces, on the way to Manila, are less than 30 miles from that city. The landing in the Subic Bay area caught the Japs by surprise and American lads advanced so rapidly that they are within 10 miles of the naval base at Port Olongapo.

Recognizing the gravity of the situation, the Japanese virtually have declared martial law in Manila. The Jap radio in Manila stated that henceforth all civil and police work would be supervised by the Japanese Military Government. James G. Wingo, former Washington Correspondent for the "Philippines Free Press" and news commentator on the "Philippine Hour", cited that in 1941 when the Japanese were attacking the Philippines, General MacArthur declared Manila an open city. He plead that the Japanese, to save the once beautiful capital city of the Philippines from destruction, declare Manila an open city.

Meanwhile, north of Rosario, American forces have advanced to within 14 miles of Baguio. Baguio was the summer capital of the Commonwealth Government and has been the seat of the Jap Puppet Government headed by Jose Laurel.

American forces now hold 23 airfields on Luzon and Luzon based planes continue to hit at the China coast and Formosa. Other usual targets, Iwo Jima, Ryukus also were visited.

SOVIET FORCES LESS THAN 90 MILES FROM BERLIN

There are several conflicting reports about the distance Soviet forces are from Berlin. One report had them 73 miles, another had them from 75 to 95, but the report of last evening placed them at "less than 90 miles" from Berlin.

Another Soviet Army drove 21 miles into Brandenburg Province. Soviet forces now have a continuous front 260 miles long across eastern Germany. Another Soviet force is within 52 miles of the Baltic port of Stettin.

There is a general exodus of officials and civilians westward from Berlin. Nazi reserves are being rushed to the eastern front. Der Fuehrer, on the anniversary of his ascension to power in 1933, demanded that young, old, sick, well, crippled, male and female fight to the end. He threatened all dissenters with death.

WESTERN FRONT

The usual report of fierce fighting and slight gains. Some units are deeper in the Siegfried Line; others are closer to the Line.

PREPARING FOR TOMORROW

Enlisted Men of the 306th Airdrome Squadron are seriously concerned about their place in the world of tomorrow. Three already are taking and four others have applied for courses under the Armed Forces Institute.

Several are completing high school courses, others continuing University education and one is studying to help with his business. Aside from those, one is conducting independent studies in the social sciences.

All but one of these boys of the 306th are between the ages of 21 and 25; the other is 27.

During the past several weeks, there have been a number of inquiries concerning courses in the Armed Forces Institute. The most of these have come from the boys between 21 and 25.

Here is an indication of the wide range of subjects being studied and applied for by the boys of the 306th: accounting, book-keeping, elementary English, radio writing, refrigeration, algebra, social sciences and advertising.

CHAPEL BELL

The Chapel bell of the 64th Service Group is sending out its call to worship. Services will be held in Headquarters Squadron area Sunday, February 4, as follows:

0800-Protestant, 0930-Catholic Mass, 1800-Protestant

Men who worship in the Jewish faith will meet Monday, February 5, at 1800, to arrange for their services. The Jewish Chaplain, of Base W, will be present to discuss matters with them. All men who worship in the Jewish faith in the Binmaley area are urged to be present.

LATE FLASHES

LUZON-Americans 25 miles from Manila. Another landing in Subic Bay-on Grande Island. No naval bombardment at Subic Bay landing necessary--Guerrillas with American flag, not Americans.

GERMANY-Just reported that Soviet forces took a town 63 miles from Berlin

S E C R E T

306TH AIRDROME SQUADRON
APO 70

SECRET
Auth: CO
Init: BLS

AG 314.7

3 March 1945

SUBJECT: Historical Data for the Month of February, 1945.

TO : Commanding General, Fifth Air Force, APO 710.
ATTN: Historical Section (THRU: Channels)

The mission of the 306th Airdrome Squadron is, and has been, two-fold: (1) In leap-frogging operations to organize advance airdromes so that flight echelons can move up and have essential service without waiting on the movement of its ground echelon. (2) Organize sufficient airdromes in stabilized areas to permit rapid tactical and strategic concentration of air power without limiting the rapidity of this concentration to the mobility of ground echelons. This Squadron will support one to three combat squadron air echelons depending on intensity and length of activity. One airdrome squadron will support one squadron's air echelon continuously under intense activity. One air drome squadron will support three squadrons' air echelons for a period of one to ten days under intense activity, after which time it must receive support or efficiency will fall off. (Taken from T/E 1-487S, Par 7, a, b.)

The 306th Airdrome Squadron has never had to support an ENTIRE air drome without aid, but it has contributed largely to the operation and smooth running of Goatee Air Strip in Lingayen, Luzon, P.I. during the past month.

In keeping with the primary mission of an Airdrome Squadron, the Engineering Department set a minor record when they performed first and second echelon maintenance on one hundred twenty-three (123) various type aircraft during this past month. It was noted in last month's report that forty-seven AM's (747's and 750's) performed the actual repair work on seventy-six (76) planes. This month, those same forty-seven AM's repaired one hundred and twenty-three planes! In addition, they salvaged five planes.

The following is a breakdown of the planes: thirty-three C-47's, eleven P-47's, eleven C-46's, one L-5, two F4U's, two B-24's, one R-40-6 (Navy), eleven P-51's, seven P-40's, fifteen P-38's, twenty B-25's and nine A-20's.

The Ordnance Section of the Squadron furnished all ammunition and bombs for use by the 18th Fighter Group, the 18th Reconnaissance Squadron and the 38th Bomb Group, amounting to 697,440 rounds of .50 cal. ammunition and 788,000 pounds of bombs.

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Due to a shortage of Ordnance Personnel at the bomb dump at Honey Strip in Mangaldan, men were taken from this Ordnance Section and placed on DS with the 80th Airdrome Squadron there. That left only 20 men in the Ordnance Section to take care of Ordnance needs on the Goatee Strip - twenty men to handle 697,440 rounds of ammunition and 780,000 of bombs! A record of performance not many Ordnance Crews could maintain.

The Communications Section continued to operate Base Operations on Goatee Strip and were carrying on their work in a satisfactory manner.

The morale of the men was higher during the month of February than it had been for the past nine (9) months. Of course, the contributing factor is the country in which the Squadron is located. The people have treated the men of the Squadron wonderfully well. There have been many dances and parties to which the "Gee Eyes" were invited. The Filipinos have frequently invited men to their homes to partake of their native foods. Unfortunately, the food for the most part is not to the liking of the average American soldier and it is only courtesy and fear of offending that they will dine with a Filipino family.

The "high spot" of the month came on Thursday, 8 February in the Squadron mess hall on the occasion of the "Camp Warming", (See Incl. #4) when a show was presented by the Special Service Section. Music for the occasion was furnished by a Filipino Orchestra (?), with pretty little Filipino girls contributing their charm and voices to the entertainment program. (See Incl. #7)

Sgt Lee Leyba and Cpl Michael Sebo were also featured on the program and made a pleasing duo with their harmonica and banjo. (See Incl. #8) Major Boris L. Saunders, Commanding Officer, proved to be the surprise entertainer of the evening when he took over the piano position and got together with the Filipino orchestra for a little "jam" on three swing classics: "Honeysuckle Rose", "The Shiek of Araby", and "Chinatown". (See Incl. #10)

Sgt Albert S Scialfo, Special Service NCO, arranged and acted as Master of Ceremonies for the show. Sgt Herbert Waggoner, Mess Sergeant, provided refreshments in the form of banana cream cake and cocoa. A vote of thanks was given to these two enterprising men.

Another Special Service activity came into being when 2nd Lt William C. Ulrich, Squadron Adjutant and Special Service Officer and formerly a choir director in New York City, organized a glee club. As yet, the chorus has not appeared in public but within a

S E C R E T

few weeks Lt Ulrich hopes to have it whipped into shape and plans are being made to present it over the air, broadcasting from the newly inaugurated radio station operated by the 308th Bomb Wing. (See Incl. #5, 6 & 9)

At the beginning of the month the strength of the Squadron was 12 Officers and 266 Enlisted Men. By the end of the month the ranks were depleted to 10 Officers and 261 Enlisted Men. Captain Walter A. Thompson, Jr., was transferred to the 64th Service Group, from whence he came, and 2nd Lt. William C Ulrich was transferred to Hq & Hq Sq., 64th Service Group and appointed Group Information & Education Officer. Lt Ulrich, however, is continuing with the directing of the glee club.

The insidious fungus infection accounted for the loss of three of the Enlisted Men when S/Sgt Edson R. Potter, Sgt Ernest A Fuller and Pfc Byron F. Schultz were sent to the hospital. These men were later transferred to Base hospitals (unknown).

S/Sgt Charles W Swaim, former Line-Chief and Master Sergeant, was reduced for inefficiency and transferred to the 93rd Service Squadron. He was well liked by the men under his charge and they were sorry to see him leave.

Pvt Kenneth W Porter, former Mess Sergeant, earned the distinction of being the first man of the Squadron to transfer to the Infantry when he effected a transfer to the 158th Regimental Combat Team. Pvt Frank Paulovich was transferred to the Hq & Hq Sq, 64th Service Group, where he assumed the duties of Cook.

On 20 February 1945, Goatee Strip and the Lingayen area was under air attack. Fortunately, nobody was hurt although three (3) planes were damaged. The Fire-Fighting Team of the Squadron is on duty at the strip 24 hours a day and through their efforts, damage wrought by the bombs and the resulting fire was kept to the very minimum. If it were not for their prompt action, more planes would have been damaged and perhaps men injured and lives lost.

The information contained in this report was compiled and written by Cpl Robert E Davidson, Headquarters Section.

For the Squadron Commander:

(Signed)
ANTHONY J. ANCONETANI,
1ST Lt., Air Corps,
Historical Officer.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

306TH AIRDROME SQUADRON.

APO 70

20 February 1945

SUBJECT: 'Monthly Intelligence Summary No. 7. Period
Covered: 20 Jan '45 to 20 Feb '45.

TO : A.C. of S (A-2), Far East Air Force, APO 925
(THRU: Channels)

1. Individual Cases: None.
2. Rumors: The rumor that our planes miscalculated and bombed our own infantry units was given a fair degree of credence by our own men. It originated from an outside source. It was traced to infantry men but no definite individual or individuals was found responsible. It is our conjecture that such rumors are of the worst type since they can shake confidence in our leadership.
3. Propaganda Activity: The Japanese attempts to impress our men with erroneous military reports have been frustrated. They have no adverse effect upon our men.
4. Morale: The morale of the men is excellent. They can boast the finest area in the vicinity. Soldier shows, athletic programs, glee club and the like give them much needed diversion. The improvement of mail service is also a leading factor. The one failing has been rations. The food is not up to par due to unavailability. We hope the latter condition improves shortly.
5. Units Covered by this Summary: 306th Adrm Sq.
6. Positive Security Measures: Realizing the increased importance of security, the following measures have been taken. Bulletins have been posted indicating the difference between the appearance of the Jap and Filipino. The men are cautioned against "loose talk", repeatedly. Civilian patrols are assigned to the area to serve as a check. All hired Filipino personnel who may have access to military information are cleared through the PCAU. All departments within the organization have been instructed to comply strictly with AR 380-5 in regards to filing, classification and destruction of classified materials. The Squadron Defense Plan has been made clear to the men as has the Chemical Plan.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

During a recent red alert, the following infractions of blackout discipline were noted in an adjacent theatre area: cigarettes remained lit throughout the alert; Filipinos attending the movie and in possession of flashlights used them indiscriminately directing the beam on the screen. Men from our unit were as much to blame as the men from other organizations. The following day a bulletin was posted reprimanding the men for their undue complacency. They were warned not to trade their flashlights with Filipinos. However, we emphasize that our men have rigidly adhered to blackout rules in the area. We suggest that Filipinos, through the medium of the PCAU or other agencies, be PROPERLY educated on blackout discipline.

7. Remarks and Questions: The unit Intelligence Officer holds the position of Base Operations Officer. Therefore, he can't give full time to Intelligence work. However, the Intelligence NCO is on a full duty schedule. Weekly War Talks have been planned.

For the Squadron Commander:

s/ Frederick W. Strisko,
t/ FREDERICK W. STRISKO,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Intelligence Officer.

Distribution:

Orig and two (2) copies A.C. of S., FEAF, APO 925. (Thru: Channels)
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One (1) copy - File.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

(signed)
JOSEPH A AUTH,
1st Lt., A.C.,
Adjutant.

S E C R E T

306TH AIRDROME SQUADRON

APO 70

AG 314.7

9 April 1945

SUBJECT: . Historical Data for the Month of March, 1945.

TO : Commanding General, Fifth Air Force, APO 710.
ATT: Historical Section (THRU: Channels)

Upon entering the area of the 306th Airdrome Squadron, one can see a sign reading, "It may not be home, but it's the next best thing!". During the month of March a remodeling of the camp was performed by all members of the Squadron, with the result that it is the next best thing to home. Tents were raised three feet off the ground and each individual poured into the construction his own ideas and designs. Practically overnight the camp grew into a beautiful area which created that "homey" feeling for every man of the organization.

At the beginning of the month, the strength of the Squadron was ten (10) Officers and two hundred sixty-one (261) Enlisted Men. Due to transfers and hospitalizations the ranks were depleted to two hundred forty (240) Enlisted Men with the total of Officers remaining the same. The transfers were in line with the policy of the V AFSvC of relieving for reassignment technically trained personnel who are working out of MOS. Five EM transferred to the 3rd Airdrome Squadron, APO 72; three transferred to Hq Sq, V AFSvC, APO 710; two to the 79th Airdrome Squadron, station secret; and one to Hq & Hq Sq, 64th Air Service Group, APO 70. One man is enroute to rejoin the organization from the 51st General Hospital at APO 565.

The Squadron considered it a great loss losing Major BORIS L. SAUNDERS as Commanding Officer, due to illness, on 19 March. No organization can give higher praise to the CO who made the Squadron what it is today by his brilliant leadership. 1st Lt JOSEPH A. AUTH, Squadron Adjutant, assumed temporary command until the arrival from V AFSvC, on 29 March, of the new Squadron Commander, Major MILLARD S. PARRISH. On the 31st Major Parrish was introduced to the Squadron at a formation held for that purpose, and the men took an immediate liking to him, resulting in a continuation of the same high morale shown during Major SAUNDER'S command.

Major PARRISH comes to the Squadron with an extensive background of military service, begun in 1916 as an enlisted man in the 113th Engineers. During World War I he saw service in France, rising through the ranks to become First Sergeant of his outfit. In July 1918, he was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant, and held that grade until his resignation in December 1919. In 1928 his commission was reinstated by Presidential appointment, and he was called to active duty in June 1937 for CCC service. In August of 1942, with the closing out of the CCC, he was assigned to the Air Corps.

S E C R E T

BASIC: Ltr., 306th Airdrome Squadron, dd 9 April 1945, Subj:
"Historical Data for the month of March, 1945." (Cont'd)

The Engineering Section is still operating within the primary mission of an Airdrome Squadron, and is maintaining the excellent record set by it in previous months. The department held to its high standard by the maintenance, during March, of one hundred twenty-two (122) aircraft. This was accomplished by a force of only forty-eight mechanics. The number of man-hours performed by these forty-eight totaled three thousand four hundred twenty-six (3426) for the thirty-one day period. "Deeds, Not Words" can well be the motto of the Engineering Section. The highly paid compliments from organizations within and around Goatee Air Strip prove that statement to be true.

The following is a breakdown of the various aircraft maintained by the Engineering Section: twenty-three C-46's, two B-24's, seven P-51's, six P-40's, twenty-five B-25's, twenty-seven P-38's, twenty-one C-47's, two P-61's, one F-5B, one F-5E, three UC-45's, two P-47's, one L-5 and one A-24.

The Ordnance Section of the Squadron continued with its splendid work, furnishing the 38th Bombardment Group, the 82nd Fighter Reconnaissance Squadron, the 110th Fighter Reconnaissance Group, the 17th Reconnaissance Squadron, the 49th Fighter Squadron, and transient aircraft with nine hundred sixty-three thousand seven hundred (963,700) pounds of bombs and over three hundred thousand rounds of ammunition. During the month the six men on DS with the 80th Airdrome Squadron were returned to duty but three others were assigned to duty with the 64th Air Service Group Ammunition Dump, and three were assigned to loading bombs on freight cars in Dagupan. That left twenty men to handle the 963,700 lbs of bombs--an average of 48,000 lbs for each man within the thirty-one day period. A record of performance of which any organization can well be proud!

The Communication Section continued to carry on full "Operations" at Goatee Air Strip and to perform it in the same satisfactory manner that's prevailed since the first airplanes started landing on the Lingayen Field. As said before, the "Madhouse" personnel feel, as do other sections on the strip, a personal pride and satisfaction in doing their bit toward sending the "Emperor's sons" to join their honorable ancestors.

The morale of the men is classified as very good for the first half of the month and excellent for the latter half. The drop from "excellent" in February to "very good" for the first half of March is attributed to the monotonous and un-appetizing diet of canned pork and gravy and "C" ration stew, which we underwent these two weeks. Another contributing factor was the lack of cigarettes, a critical condition for the smokers of the Squadron. However, the

S E C R E T

BASIC: Ltr., 306th Airdrome Squadron, dd 9 April 1945, Subj:
"Historical Data for the Month of March, 1945." (Cont'd)

last fifteen days of the month the morale again rose coincident with the regular issuing of cigarettes, beer, Coca-Cola, PX supplies and the occasional serving of fresh meat at meals. The morale of the unit can well be classified as excellent from 15 March through 31 March.

Miscellaneous events within the Squadron were numerous. Only a few outstanding need be mentioned: 1st Lt JOSEPH A. AUTH was reclassified from Adjutant (2110) to Supply Officer (4000), with 1st Lt CHARLES A. EARHART, Armament Officer, taking over the task of Adjutant. Four EM were reclassified to a higher MOS and forty-one received promotions in grade. Two were promoted to Staff Sergeant, three to Sergeant, seven to Corporal and twenty-nine to Private First Class. This too helped to contribute to the higher morale stated above.

A near-tragedy occurred within our ranks on 14 March due to the accidental explosion of a 1000-pound bomb on the air strip. The men were preparing to return to the area after their day's work, when a flak-filled B-25 came in for a landing. In landing, a bomb became released, exploding at a point about two hundred yards from where a group of our men were preparing to board a truck headed for the camp. The burst sent them scattering for places safe from the flying fragments. However, one man didn't make it--Staff Sergeant Martin A. Tures. Hit by a jagged piece of frag, he was treated for lacerations about the face by our Medical Officer, Captain Ellsworth Tracy. With an Enlisted Man from another organization losing his leg in the accident, we were thankful to Providence for escaping as lightly as we did.

The Special Services highlight of the month was another of Sgt Al Scialfo's productions, "G I JITTERS", presented on the newly constructed Squadron stage. The stage, a showplace of this area, was designed by Cpl Joseph Kardos, Squadron painter and Sgt Edward Polanowski, Draftsman of the Intelligence Section, both of whom also collaborated on the art work. The stage is done in a modern motif and is embellished with characters and symbols of the "Boogie Woogie" sect. Actual construction was done by a combined crew of Enlisted Men and Filipino laborers under the supervision of Sgt D. Hershey and Cpl Roy Cromartie, Bombsight Mechanics. Lighting effects were under the direction of Sgt Theodore Bardahl, a Radar Mechanic IFF. All three of the last named NCO's, while lacking opportunity to work in their specialties, have been invaluable in the various camp construction projects. (Pictures of the stage show are enclosed).

S E C R E T

BASIC: Ltr., 306th Airdrome Squadron, dd 9 April 1945, Subj:
"Historical Data for the Month of March, 1945." (Cont'd)

Construction was also begun on a Squadron Service Club during the month: Already, with completion still weeks away, the members of the outfit have decided on its name--"Mammy's Shack"! The "tag" is a sentimental tie to our memorable stay at Pueblo Army Air Base in Colorado, but recalling as it does, the seamy side of the Squadron's "extra-curricular" activities, it is apt to remain unofficial.

The information contained in this report was compiled and written by S Sgt Chester W. Vanderbilt and Cpl Harry C. Dennis, both of Headquarters Section.

For the Squadron Commander:

/S/ Anthony J. Anconetani
/T/ ANTHONY J. ANCONETANI
1st Lt., Air Corps,
HISTORICAL Officer

11 Incl:

- Incl: 1 - Sq Orders #6
- 2 - Sq Orders #7
- 3 - Sq Orders #8
- 4 - Mo Intell. Summary
- 5 - Picture: Base Operations' Personnel
- 6 - Picture: 306th Alert Crew
- 7 - Picture: Engineering Area
- 8 - Picture: Sheet Metal work on B-24
- 9 - Picture: Maintenance on P-38
- 10 - Picture: Maintenance on B-25
- 11 - Picture: Special Services Stage Show

306TH AIRDROME SQUADRON
APO 70

4 March 1945

O R D E R S)
:
NUMBER....6)

1. 1st Lt MIKE W. PEPPER, 01554605, Ord, hereby asgd the
add dy of Chemical Officer, vice 1st Lt CHARLES A. EARNHART,
0863951, AC, reld.

/s/ Boris L. Saunders
/t/ BORIS L. SAUNDERS
Major, Air Corps
Commanding

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

CHARLES A EARNHART
1st Lt, Air Corps
Adjutant

306TH AIRDROME SQUADRON
APO 70

19 March 1945

O R D E R S)
:
NUMBER....7)

1. Under the provisions of the AR 600-20 the undersigned hereby assumes command.

2. 1st Lt CHARLES A. EARHART, 0863951, AC, hereby asgd the add dy of Adjutant, vice 1st Lt JOSEPH A AUTH, 0566959, AC, reld.

/s/ Joseph A. Auth
/t/ JOSEPH A AUTH
1ST Lt. Air Corps
Commanding

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

CHARLES A EARHART
1st Lt, Air Corps
Adjutant

306TH AIRDROME SQUADRON
APO 70

29 March 1945

O R D E R S)
NUMBER....8)

1, Under the provisions of AR 600-20 the undersigned hereby
assumes command.

/s/ Millard S. Parrish
/t/ MILLARD S. PARRISH
Major, Air Corps
Commanding

CERTIFIED TRUE Copy;

CHARLES A EARHART
1st Lt., Air Corps
Adjutant

306TH AIRDROME SQUADRON
APO 70

20 March 1945

SUBJECT: Monthly Intelligence Summary No. 8, Period
Covered: 20 Feb '45 to 20 March '45.

TO : A.C. of S (A-2), Far East Air Force, APO 925
(THRU: Channels)

1. Individual Cases: None

2. Rumors: The 15-16 of March marked the most disturbing rumor this unit has encountered. The fact that the Japs had successfully infiltrated our lines and were but 8 miles away, heading in our direction, was conveyed to the Charge of Quarters by telephone. The Commanding Officer was summoned from his quarters and our Defense Plan was carried into effect. The men acted in a cool, efficient manner in what appeared to be a major emergency. The night passed with no enemy activity. The following morning, the Group Intelligence Officer called and stated that the night's occurrence had been the result of a rumor. The same message was relayed to the men via bulletin and Public Address System. The results were not totally positive. A considerable number of men accepted the statement with skepticism.

3. Propaganda Activity: In general, news from Tokyo has no adverse effect upon our men. However, whenever the enemy announces a new landing by our forces, 80% of the unit places considerable credence in it. For example, the landings on Iwo Jima and Mindinao may be cited. A few days later, these reports are proved to be correct through confirmation by our own Headquarters.

4. Morale: The morale of our organization is classified as very good. The apparent drop from excellent is attributed to the following facts. There has been no variety in rations. Beans, "C" rations and canned beef or pork and gravy offer a monotonous and unsavory routine. Another factor is the loss of our Commanding Officer due to illness. Through his persistent efforts, our unit made marked strides in efficiency and improved organization. This constant change of Commanding Officers has had a disturbing effect upon the men. It is not easy to readjust themselves to comply with the ways and methods of new leaders, especially when the turnover is so rapid. The poor issue of cigarettes finds no plausible explanation. Squadron stage shows, building of a beautiful stage, active athletic programs and the plans for a Service Club (now under construction) equipped with dance floor and bar will help bolster morale. However, lack of savory rations, poor cigarette issue and constant change of CO's are things beyond our control.

5. Units covered by this Summary: 306th Airdrome Squadron.

S E C R E T

6. Positive Security Measures: Filipinos are no longer allowed within the area without a pass. Civilian Guards are posted at all entrances. Notices in English and the local dialect have been posted to that effect. A consultation with the unit censor revealed the gratifying fact that the men are adhering to security rules. The inspection of department files to check compliance with 380-5 was carried out as usual. The report is positive. During the recent alerts, blackout discipline within the area was excellent. A control switch located in the orderly room makes it handy for the Charge of Quarters to black out the area within a few seconds. March 2nd eight red signals were fired in rapid succession. Though the men have been schooled as to the meaning of the different signals, they showed a fair degree of concern and puzzlement over these. Such new signals should be made clear, if feasible, so as to avoid confusion with the seven alert flashes. March 5, while on an official errand, one of our men gave an officer a lift. The EM did not know the officer nor he the former. Nevertheless, the officer engaged in intimate conversation concerning imminent air attack from this base on a Japanese convoy sighted off Formosa. Occurrences of this type shake the Enlisted Man's confidence in security rules and our whole plan to control "loose talk" appears a farce to him; more so because an officer was the violator.

7. Remarks and Questions: The intelligence Officer's major duty is that of Base Operations Officer. Hence, he can direct only partial time to Intelligence duties. However, the Intelligence NCO expends full time to this function. The daily news is conveyed to the men through the medium of News Board, radio and afternoon newscasts announced over the Public Address System by the Intelligence NCO. A situation map has been posted in the Day Room.

For the Squadron Commander:

/s/ Fredrick W. Strisko
/t/ FREDRICK W. STRISKO
1st Lt., Air Corps
Intelligence Officer

Distribution:

Orig and Two (2) copies A.C. of S., A-2, Far East Air Force, APO 925. (THRU CHANNELS)
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One (1) copy - C.I.C. Det. APO 70
One (1) copy - S-2, 64th Service Group, APO 70.
One (1) copy - File.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

CHARLES A EARNHART
1st Lt, Air Corps
Adjutant

306TH AIRDROME SQUADRON

APO 70

1 April 1945

SUBJECT: Quarterly Historical Medical Activities (Auth: AR 40-1005)
SG8 Ltr., 31 December 1942)

TO : The Commanding General, Fifth Air Force, APO 710.
(Thru Commanding Officer, 64th Air Service Group, APO 70)

QUARTERLY HISTORICAL MEDICAL ACTIVITIES

1. The 306th Airdrome Squadron started the present report period aboard LST 269 enroute to APO 70. The landing was uneventful and the squadron moved to its new area about four miles from the site of debarkation. The area assigned is in a low sandy district pleasantly wooded. In the grove there were several Filipino families and these have all been relocated. Drainage has been a problem as there is no low ground to which to drain waste liquids, and the water level is so high that soakage pits are impossible to construct. The weather has been warm, but the heat was not excessive. It has rained only three times in the camp area and these rains, though intense, have been of short duration.

Medical care has been furnished to the squadron and at intervals to the 62nd Malaria Control Unit, the 2009th QM Trucking Co., Avn, and the 1828th S&M Co. During most of the report period the squadron has maintained a dispensary on the flight line. This is used as a reserve in case of crashes, and to take care of minor accidents, thus relieving the flight surgeon on duty of the many minor cuts and complaints that ordinarily he is called on to care for. The enlisted men are in constant attendance day and night.

The general health of the command has remained good, and although skin diseases are prevalent and hospital admissions increased over previous reports, the work performed by the squadron has not been materially affected.

The function of the organization remains unchanged, namely the repair of airplanes, refueling, ordnance and armament service to airplanes and operation of Base Operations.

Major Boris L. Saunders, O-383242 was transferred to Detachment of Patients, and evacuated from APO 70 on 27 March 1945. His place as commanding Officer has been taken by Major Millard S. Parrish, O-254094, who assumed command on 29 March 1945. There were no significant shortages in the enlisted ranks and a few overages were transferred to other units in the theatre.

The enlisted personnel were well qualified to perform their duties, and as time progresses, are becoming more efficient. There have been no losses of medical personnel in combat or by evacuation.

The "Bulletin of The U. S. Army Medical Department" has arrived regularly and has contained helpful articles written in such a manner as to be of real value in the field. Letters on current medical problems have been read and they are generally timely and so, of unusual interest. Staff meetings, lectures, and

discussion, in a formal sense, have not been available to the surgeon. Training of enlisted personnel has continued to be given daily.

Medical supplies have been furnished by the 64th Air Service Group Medical Supply and all essential needs have been met. A stove of some kind to use as a sterilizer would be of great help, but none is available. The alcohol lamps issued are of no use and all sterilizing must be done in the kitchen. Property exchange has caused no problem. Supplies have been used sparingly.

Water for drinking and showers has been hauled from Approved Engineer water points. Laundry facilities were available but the enlisted men preferred to send their laundry out to be done by Filipinos, so that the laundry has been discontinued. On first moving to the area, the kitchen was set up in a tent and men ate out of doors. An adequate mess hall was built during the first few days, and the kitchen screened. Garbage is given to the local priests for their pigs and the cans are buried. Waste kitchen fluids are passed through a three drum grease trap. There is no place for the effluent to be disposed of as the ground is level for miles around. Therefore a sort of elevated soakage pit was built about fifty feet from the mess hall. Sand and sod were rounded up in a circle to a height of about three feet. The kitchen waste, after passing through grease traps, stands in this and there is enough pressure to filter the waste through the sandy sides and it spreads out in the surrounding area. The pool formed within the elevated soakage pit is skimmed daily. The men have lived in pyramidal tents, and floors built three feet off the ground have been recently added in preparation for the rainy season. Mosquitoes have not been prevalent in spite of the large number of rice paddies present in the area.

The squadron dispensary is not authorized beds.

Diseases peculiar to the tropics, except for excessive skin diseases, have not appeared. There has been no malaria or dengue, either new or old. No neuropsychiatric cases have been admitted to the hospital. Two neuropsychiatric mentioned in previous reports, whose final dispositions were not known, have since been evacuated to the United States.

Outpatient service was given to many Filipino families soon after landing, but this is now given to them on a more organized basis by PCAU. The surgeon has also been called on to furnish dispensary service to a Filipino Squadron guarding the air strip.

The squadron was assigned to an air strip at APO 70, and the advance from this point was so rapid that the squadron was never in a truly forward area. There have been air raids, but fortunately, there are no battle casualties to report.

Venereal disease has been much more of a problem here than previously. Prophylactic kits were packed where they could be easily reached and were issued to the men on reaching the camp area. There were no cases of venereal disease until the latter part of the report period when one case of primary syphilis and two cases of chancroid had to be hospitalized. There has been no gonorrhea. Each month at the time of the malaria lecture the venereal disease situation has been explained and a regular venereal disease lecture was given with the Chaplain of the 64th Air Service Group and the surgeon speaking. Prophylactic kits have always been available for the asking in the dispensary and a prophylactic station also maintained in the dispensary.

As mentioned above, there were no battle casualties, so there is nothing to report in this category.

The welfare of the men has received attention commensurate with its importance. Moving pictures have been available and although some are necessarily old, others have been recent. The attendance at these showings attest to their popularity. Gratuitous issue of candy, tobacco and toilet articles have adequately met the needs of all. Issue of beer at intervals has been much appreciated. The Red Cross maintains a canteen on the air strip and has recently completed a beach club which will give the men a chance to get away from the military atmosphere for a little while.

ELLSWORTH M. TRACY

Capt, MC
Medical Officer

MSP/CWV

306th Airdrome Squadron, APO 70, 6 April 1945

TO: Commanding Officer, 64th Air Service Group, APO 70

Approved

MILLARD S PARRISH
Major, AC
Commanding

S E C R E T

BASIC: Ltr., 306th Airdrome Squadron, dd 9 May 1945, Subj:
"Historical Data for the Month of April, 1945." (Cont'd)

Special Services arranged many activities during April and all were "right in the groove" entertainment. However, the most outstanding was the premier showing on our Boogie-Woogie stage of "K Ration Review" presented by the 27th Special Services Company-- and what an ovation it received! Every single act from beginning to end met with thunderous applause, and of course, the usual GI howls and whistles. The 27th Special Services Company can be proud of sponsoring a show with such well known entertainers as Clark Dennis, tenor; Bob Atcher, singing cowboy star; George Irving, baritone, and many other popular stars.

Another highlight of the month came on April 17th with the presentation of an all Filipino show at the dedication of our newly completed Service Club. It was a fine production for the initial event. Elaborate plans had been made for a gala opening on Saturday evening, the fourteenth. But the announcement, on the thirteenth, of the sudden death of our great President and Commander-in-Chief, Franklin D. Roosevelt, of course precluded celebration of any nature. Along with millions of fellows in arms and many more millions of people all over the world, we were deeply saddened by the tragic news.

Parties each Saturday night, for Squadron members only, are in full swing at the present time where the men can get together, "shoot the bull", and have an all-round good time. Following the trend of other organizations, the Squadron sponsored a dance on the 22nd. A hundred girls were invited and a hundred girls came, but one thing was overlooked that turned out both amusing and a little disappointing. Chaperones were expected - possibly ten at the most, but each girl arrived with her Filipino boy-friend and at least six members of the family. The results were that none of the 306th could even get near the Service Club, not to mention dance. However, it did prove to be a new and somewhat laughable experience to us. The moral of the story is "Don't forget Filipino customs"!

Morale of the organization can be classified as excellent for the month of April due to numerous reasons. "The way to a man's heart is through his stomach" is an old saying and Quartermaster reached our hearts by the better diet of fresh meat this month. A large quantity PX supplies, cigarette issue and the arrival of the long awaited Christmas packages were other contributing factors. Weekly Saturday night parties, Service Club facilities and sponsored stage shows did their part in keeping the men in a high frame of mind. The only instance that blackened morale in any way was the transfer of high-rated personnel into the organization, eliminating practically all chances for promotions for men within the Squadron. Some rating requests had been turned into Group Headquarters, but a few hours before they would have been effected, orders came through transferring the men into the unit. As a result, all promotions

S E C R E T

BASIC: Ltr., 306th Airdrome Squadron, dd 9 May 1945, Subj:
"Historical Data for the Month of April, 1945." (Cont'd)

were cancelled due to the Squadron T/O being exceeded. The men were welcomed into the Squadron, however, and it was only a matter of a day or two before they were accepted as full-fledged "Dromers". The morale can well be classified as the highest since the organization's arrival here in the Philippines.

The information contained in this report was compiled and written by Sgt Harry C. Dennis of Headquarters Section.

FOR THE SQUADRON COMMANDER:

(Signed)
ANTHONY J. ANCONETANI
1st Lt, Air Corps
Historical Officer

5 Incl:

- Incl: 1 - Engineering Progress Chart
- 2 - Sq Orders #9
- 3 - Mo Intelligence Summary
- 4 - Picture--"K Ration Review"
- 5 - Picture--"K Ration Review"

S E C R E T

306TH AIRDROME SQUADRON
APO 70

AG 314.7

9 May 1945

SUBJECT: Historical Data for the Month of April, 1945.

TO : Commanding General, Fifth Air Force, APO 710.
ATT: Historical Section (THRU: Channels)

The month of April marked the second Anniversary of the 306th Airdrome Squadron, bringing back memories of the days when the organization "was only a Pup"! The Squadron was activated on 5 April 1943 at Rapid City, South Dakota, but did not actually function as a unit until 31 July 1943 when it was transferred to Geiger Field, Spokane, Washington. There the 306th and 73rd Airdrome Squadrons joined forces and still retaining the 306th name, started the machinery rolling toward making it one of the best Airdrome Squadrons in the Army Air Forces. Those were trying days at first! We underwent basic training, or, using a more appropriate word, overseas training. But, whichever it was, the men were none too happy about it at the time. Everyone had itching fingers to start working on those B-17's that were continually flying overhead. Well, since that day, the men have relieved that teasing inclination by servicing B-17's, B-24's, A-20's, and a multiple of other types and makes of Uncle Sam's Air Force. Many hundreds of airplanes have passed through the hands of the 306th and we are mighty proud of the records established and the high quality of work performed.

On April 1st the Squadron strength was ten (10) Officers and two hundred forty (240) Enlisted Men. Hospitalizations and transfers took another toll in the depletion of ranks. This was counteracted by new men joining the organization leaving the strength at ten (10) Officers and two hundred thirty-four (234) Enlisted Men. As in the month of March, most of the transfers were in line with the policy of Fifth Air Force Service Command of relieving for reassignment technically trained personnel who are working out of MOS. Falling into this category were the transfers of Sgt John D. Hershey and Pfc Ivan E. Collins, Bombsight Mechanics, to the 479th Air Service Squadron, APO 74; T Sgt John C. Shryock, Cpl Edwin C. Dodson, Cpl Jack Clifton, and Cpl Francis J. MacDonald, Armorers, to the 59th Air Service Group, APO 72; also, Cpl Pio D. Uliassi and Pfc James J. Gilmore, Radio Operators, to the 91st Photo Reconnaissance Wing, APO 710. Captain ELLSWORTH M. TRACY, our Medical Officer, was transferred to the Headquarters Squadron of the Far East Air Forces at APO 925 for a duty more commensurable with his outstanding ability. Pfc Sampson Bird in the Ground, a Munitions Worker and member of the Crow tribe, was sent to Fifth Bomber Command, APO 710, for an assignment in which his ability to speak an Indian dialect would be used. Twelve new men joined the organization from Fifth Air Force Service Command. Of these, ten were Airplane Maintenance Technicians (750); one, a Carpenter (050), and one

S E C R E T

BASIC: Ltr., 306th Airdrome Squadron, dd 9 May 1945, Subj:
"Historical Data for the Month of April, 1945."Cont'd)

a Control Tower Operator (552). One promotion effected during the month elevating S Sgt William M. George (750), Line Chief, to the temporary grade of Master Sergeant. Two men were reclassified--Sgt Harry C. Dennis was reclassified from Clerk Typist (405) to Classification Specialist, (275), and Pfc Guillermo P. Alonso from Auto Equipment Operator, (345), to Munitions Worker, (901).

To win a war you have to "Keep 'Em Flying" and the 306th Engineering Section is increasing its tempo each month to help meet that need. The number of airplanes maintained during April was increased 50% over that of February, showing that the AM's can, and will, produce all maintenance necessary to do their part in bringing an early end to this war. In comparison with the total of three thousand, two hundred and eighty-eight (3288) man hours performed last month, the output was increased to four thousand, five hundred and ninety-three (4593) for April. Maintenance on one hundred twenty-two (122) aircraft was the total of which we boasted last month, but this month's mark of one hundred ninety-eight (198) makes the 306th doubly proud of the fine performance set the AM's. 1st Lt THOMAS F. HEISER, Engineering Officer only recently joined the Squadron, but in three months has shown what outstanding leadership he possesses by inspiring the 100% support of the men under him. Inclosure #1, an Engineering Progress Chart, shows the work accomplished by Lt HEISER and his men for the months of January, February, March and April. This shows definite proof how production has been increased since January 1945!

The Ordnance Section in previous months gave their all toward keeping the "Goatee" aircraft well supplied with bombs, but this month the men really set a record. In comparison with the nine hundred sixty-three thousand seven hundred (963,700) lbs of bombs delivered last month, the Ordnance personnel delivered one million, three hundred sixty-three thousand, seven hundred (1,363,700) lbs of bombs for the thirty days in April. A total of six hundred eighty-one (681) tons of bombs delivered by twenty-four (24) men! No one can doubt the work that that required of the two dozen men. Since the arrival of the 306th Airdrome Squadron at Noemfoor Island, in the Netherlands East Indies, on 4 August 1944, the Ordnance has handled an estimated six million, four hundred thousand (6,400,000) lbs of bombs and three million, two hundred fifty-one thousand, five hundred (3,251,500) rounds of ammunition. The Squadron is truly proud of the Ordnance Department for its remarkable and persistent performance in doing its part toward paving the way to Tokyo.

The organizations to which bombs were delivered this month were: 82nd Reconnaissance Fighter Squadron (P-51's), 119th Reconnaissance Fighter Squadron (P-51's), 17th Reconnaissance Squadron (B-25's), 58th Fighter Group (P-47's), 475th Fighter Group (P-38's) and 3rd Attack Group (A-20's).

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEERING OFFICER
306TH AIRDROME SQUADRON.
APO 70

9 May 1945

MEMO: Planes handled by this Organization - Jan thru Apr 1945

TO : All Personnel (For your information)

<u>January</u>			<u>February</u>			<u>March</u>			<u>April</u>		
TYPE	AMT.	HRS.	TYPE	AMT.	HRS.	TYPE	AMT.	HRS.	TYPE	AMT.	HRS.
A-20	6	180	B-25	21	140	C-46	23	141	D-4B	1	2
P-40	8	60	F-5B	1	240	B-24	2	451	P-51	34	332
P-38	18	223	P-40	7	218	P-51	7	21	P-38	30	767
C-46	13	42	P-38	16	199	P-40	6	194	B-24	30	738
P-47	8	28	P-5E	1	90	B-25	25	803	C-47	25	624
C-47	8	21	C-46	36	203	P-38	27	730	B-25	21	534
L-4	1	2	P-47	11	12	C-47	21	565	P-47	35	762
PBY	1	4	C-47	12	61	P-61	2	11	IP2Y	1	3
			R-4D-6	1	18	F-5B	1	168	P-40	3	254
			B-24	2	7	F-5E	1	128	C-46	8	44
			L-5	1	1	UC-45	3	34	UC-45	3	16
			F-4U	2	4	P-47	2	5	A-20	3	7
			P-51	11	38	L-5	1	5	P-61	1	8
			A-20	10	269	A-24	1	2	OA-10A	1	12
									L-5	1	210
									F-5E	1	283
<hr/> <hr/>			<hr/> <hr/>			<hr/> <hr/>			<hr/> <hr/>		
TOTALS	63	560		132	1500		122	3258		198	4596

/s/ Thomas F. Heiser
/t/ THOMAS F. HEISER
1st Lt, Air Corps
Engineering Officer

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

(Signed)
CHARLES A. EARHART
1st Lt, Air Corps
Adjutant

306TH AIRDROME SQUADRON

APO 70

10 April 1945

O R D E R S)

NUMBER....9)

1. 1st Lt THOMAS F. HEISER, 0581814, AC, is hereby asgd the
add dy of Weight-and-Balance Officer (AUTH: FEAFF Reg 55-3,
3 March 1945.

/s/ Millard S. Parrish
/t/ MILLARD S. PARRISH
Major, Air Corps
Commanding

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

(Signed)

CHARLES A EARHART
1st Lt, Air Corps
Adjutant

S E C R E T

306TH AIRDROME SQUADRON .

APO 70

20 April 1945

SUBJECT: Monthly Intelligence Summary No.9
Period Covered: 20 March to 20 April Inclusive

TO : AC of S (A-2), Far East Air Force, APO 925
(THRU: Channels)

1. Individual Cases: None.

2. Rumors: In the March fourteenth issue of Maptalk, an article stating that airmail deliveries may be curtailed at times was misconstrued by some of the men. Careless reading resulted in the interpretation that no airmail was to be delivered. This rumor reached about twenty percent of the men before it was "shattered". An announcement was made over the Public Address System voicing to the men that the rumor was unfounded and mendacious. The results were positive.

3. Propaganda Activity: The results of enemy propaganda this month has reached a low ebb. The men know that the Jap is "on the run" and place no credence in any statements made contrary to that.

4. Morale: The morale of this organization is very good. The mess menu has improved some and recreational facilities are being expanded. However, incoming replacements of high rank has met with adverse criticism. Some rating requests have been turned in to the Group Headquarters for approval. A few hours before they were effective, orders transferring the replacements into our unit reached the Group. As a result, all orders for the promotions were cancelled. We could expend no remedial measures. Morale was excellent prior to that unexpected occurrence. Cigarette issue is still inadequate. Two Squadron Stage Shows and other like activities were successful affairs.

5. Units Covered by this Summary: 306th Airdrome Squadron

6. Positive Security Measures: The usual inspection of files for compliance with AR 380-5 was carried out. The results were positive. "Loose talk" hit a new low this month. In order to instill trust into the men concerning our desire to keep them accurately informed, we attempt to verify or refute important news as quickly as possible. We cite the regrettable death of our President as an example. We gave the news immediately with all details available. The result is that the men look up to the Intelligence Department for confirmation or refutation of any important news or rumors. This has paid dividends. Blackout security has been excellent.

S E C R E T

7. Remarks and Questions: The Intelligence Officer's major duty is that of Base Operations Officer. Therefore, he can direct only partial time to Intelligence duties. However, the Intelligence NCO works full time. The daily news is conveyed to the men through the medium of News Board, radio and afternoon news casts announced over the Public Address System by the Intelligence NCO. A situation map is located in a suitable place and kept up to date.

For the Squadron Commander.

/s/ Frederick W. Strisko
/t/ FREDERICK W. STRISKO
1st Lt, Air Corps
Intelligence Officer

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(Signed)

CHARLES A. EARHART
1st Lt, Air Corps
Adjutant

S E C R E T

306TH AIRDROME SQUADRON
APO 70

AG 314.7

9 June 1945

SUBJECT: Historical Data for the Month of May, 1945.

TO : Commanding General, Fifth Air Force, APO 710.
ATT: Historical Section (THRU: Channels)

One year ago, on May 16, 1944, men of the 306th aboard the USAT Sea Marlin solemnly gazed at the fading shore lines of San Francisco - maybe with just a little lump in each man's throat and wondering just what the future held in store for him in the lands "down under". Since our arrival here in Binmaley, Pangasinan Province, Luzon, the men can turn the pages of their own private history book back a year and look at the laughable, diverse and hazardous experiences since that day on the Sea Marlin and see that things were not nearly as pernicious as their minds imagined. The foremost thought in everyone's mind now is helping to get the war over as quickly as possible so those fading shore lines of Frisco will reappear and "Home for Good" will be the light in every man's eyes!

The thirty-one (31) days in May showed a turnover in personnel similar to that in the past two months of March and April. At the beginning of the month the strength was nine (9) Officers and two hundred thirty-seven (237) Enlisted Men. At the end of the month, the strength was reduced to eight (8) Officers and two hundred thirty-two (232) Enlisted Men, deleting the ranks one (1) Officer and five (5) Enlisted Men. Men that were transferred were being reported as overages in their particular MOS and V Air Force Service Command adhering to their policy of transferring technically trained personnel into their own specialized job effected the transfers to organizations where men in that particular MOS were needed. S Sgt Louis J. Kochan, AAF Radio Operator, was transferred to Hq & Hq Squadron, 46th Air Service Group, APO 74; Sgt Philip A. Glazier, AAF Radio Mechanic and Pfc Seymour B. Kramer, Airplane Sheet Metal Worker, both transferred to the 10th Air Service Squadron, APO 70; Cpl Raymond Williamson and Pfc Edward Strauch, Munition Workers, to 1541st Ordnance S & M Company (Avn), APO 70; and Pvt Cleo A. Bosley, Munitions Worker, to 1536th Ordnance S & M Company (Avn), APO 70. Two Chemical Technicians, Sgt Russell E. Frandsen and Cpl Kenneth A. Simpson, although not reported as overages, were transferred to Hq & Hq Squadron, 64th Air Service Group, where their chemical knowledge could be put to better use in making Napalm bombs. Many men who had the hope of 1st Lt William Friga Jr. returning from detached service with the 8th Air Service Squadron were disappointed by his reassignment to Hq & Hq Squadron, 7th Air Service Group, APO 74. He was well liked by all the men and the Squadron considers his release a great loss. Four (4) new men joined the organization from V Air Force Service Command. Of these, three

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BASIC: Ltr., 306th Airdrome Squadron, dd 9 June 1945, Subj:
"Historical Data for the Month of May, 1945." (Cont'd)

(3) were Airplane Mechanics (747), and the fourth an Airplane Maintenance Technician (750). Three promotions were effected for the month, Cpl Harry C. Dennis, Classification Specialist, and Cpl Alex Stadnitski, Airplane Propellor Mechanic, both to the temporary grade of Sergeant and Pfc Robert F. Eggenberger, Airplane Maintenance, to the temporary grade of Corporal. There were no reclassifications for the month of May.

Base Operations at Goatee Strip, Lingayen, is being run in the same efficient manner as on previous months of the Luzon campaign. The Communications department of the Squadron is performing the entire functions of Base Operations under the capable leadership of Lt Frederick W. Strisko, Communications and Base Operations Officer. It is his and their responsibility to give radio maintenance to all transient aircraft, handle all aircraft movements to and from other airdromes, maintain the Crash Fire Truck, C-2 Wrecker, Flat-bed, and Ambulance. The Operations section has handled as high as one thousand (1000) arrivals and departures in a twelve (12) hour period, and for the month have averaged a daily traffic of seven hundred fifty (750) aircraft. As has been proven on numerous occasions, the crash crew during this month successfully covered twelve (12) serious accidents and was alerted as many as fifteen to twenty times daily to cover aircraft called in to the tower as snafu. No higher praise can be given to any small group of men than to those on the fire truck for their prompt arrival at the scene of an accident with utter disregard for their own personal safety. The death of Pfc George W. A. Lee and serious injuries of Pfc Irving A. Akin prove that statement without a doubt. The Crash Crew was only recently photographed, in action, by Army Photographers for the history of the Air Forces.

On May 4th a tragedy occurred to the 306th which was deeply felt by all men within the Squadron. At approximately 1030 hours at Lingayen Airfield, a P-38 radioed in that he was "snafu" and coming in for a landing. In past emergencies it has been proven that the first few seconds after a crashed plane has come to a standstill are the most dangerous. The 100 octane gas from the ruptured tanks or fuel lines collects on the ground beneath the plane and the fumes may easily be ignited by sparks from any damaged electrical circuits. Thus it is imperative that the fire truck be at the scene of the accident as quickly as possible. The tower called down to two of our men, Pfc George W. A. Lee, and Pfc Irving A. Akin, on duty on the fire truck at that particular time, notifying them that a snafu P-38 was coming in. Upon receiving this notice, the fire truck started from its parking place and proceeded onto the taxiway toward the plane, which was at that time moving straight down the runway on its left wing, nose wheel, and right wheel. The plane was moving at a very high rate of speed and the drag of the left wing caused it to

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swerve to the left toward the fire truck. Pfc Akin, driver of the truck, tried desperately to get out of the path of the oncoming plane, but was unsuccessful and the plane crashed into the fire truck on the left side. Pfc Lee, standing on the rear platform of the truck was instantly killed by being eviscerated and Pfc Akin was critically injured with a fractured skull, fracture of the spleen and numerous other more-minor injuries. The courage, quick action and complete disregard for their own personal safety, has on different occasions resulted in saving pilots' lives and reflects great credit upon themselves and the military service.

Pfc's death is deeply felt by the men of the organization, the majority of whom have been for two years his constant companions. He was buried with military honors at Santa Barbara, in Pangasinan Province, Luzon, on the morning of the fifth. The men of the Squadron all attended, with the exception of only those whom it was necessary to retain to maintain operations. Pfc Akin is rapidly recovering from his injuries at the 107th Station Hospital, Lingayen, and is anxiously awaiting his return to the Squadron.

The Ordnance Section, striving to continue the pace set in previous months, delivered to the 82nd Reconnaissance Fighter Group (P-51's), 110th Reconnaissance Fighter Group (P-51's), and 17th Reconnaissance Bomb Group (B-25's) nine hundred ninety-three (993,000) pounds of bombs. This brings the total almost to five million (5,000,000) pounds of bombs delivered by twenty (24) men since the latter part of January. These men have shown, without a doubt, that they can and will put out all the work that twenty-four (24) men are capable of doing. This total may be only a small fraction of bombs delivered to the Japs throughout the Pacific and Far East, but we have a personal satisfaction in knowing they have helped to give the enemy the "glorious and honorable" death they all so desire.

All construction has been completed on the strip Engineering area resulting in each section, within the department, having its own particular shop. All buildings are conveniently located to maintain the quickest and most efficient cooperation among the various jobs that airplane maintenance requires. Tech Supply, Prop mechanics, Welders, AM's, Sheet-metal workers, etc., are located conveniently to each other to insure against the man-hour losses which result from a poorly organized area. During May the AM's performed maintenance on one hundred thirty-nine (139) various types of aircraft with the total man-hours reaching three thousand, five hundred fifty-seven (3557). In addition, the following shows the total man-hours various sections of the Engineering Department performed for May: Reclamation - 278 hours; Welding - 252 hours; Prop work - 546 hours; Carpenter work - 364 hours; Electrical work - 182 hours; Aero Repair - 546 hours; Salvage - 1118 hours; and Sheet-metal work - 182 hours.

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BASIC: Ltr., 306th Airdrome Squadron, dd 9 June 1945, Subj:
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A breakdown of the various aircraft maintained by the Engineering Department is as follows: Eight (8) P-38's, fifty-four (54) C-47's, three (3) L-5's, five (5) B-25's, three (3) UC-45's, fifteen (15) P-51's, one (1) P-61, two (2) P-40's, seven (7) P-47's, twenty-two (22) B-24's, five (5) A-20's and fourteen (14) C-46's.

Due to the transfer last month of Captain Ellsworth W. Tracy, our Medical Officer, to Hq Squadron of the Far East Air Forces, APO 925, the medical personnel have been somewhat under a handicap. However, they have shown they can do a splendid job no matter what the circumstances. Four medical Enlisted Men are on duty at the flight line dispensary with the remaining four in the Squadron dispensary with the remaining four in the Squadron dispensary. During the month of May, the four men in the Squadron dispensary gave one thousand, one hundred forty-two (1142) minor treatments, but cases of a more serious or chronic nature were taken to the 64th Air Service Group dispensary for diagnostic service and thereafter treated at the unit dispensary. Medical service is given twenty-four (24) hours daily. The dispensary is open from 0715 to 2100 and the men are free to come in at any time. It is felt that in this manner more complete medical service can be rendered. In addition, a great saving in man-work-hours is effected by this method inasmuch as the men, as a result, come in for treatment in off-duty hours. A breakdown of the various type medical cases are: Forty-five percent - dermatitis, miliaria, epidermophytosis; thirty percent - infections and small lacerations; twenty-three percent - burns, otitis and externa media, lymphangitis, venereal disease, cysts, acne, upper respiratory diseases; and two percent - diarrhea and other minor diseases of the digestive tract.

The morale of the organization is excellent. The continuance of fresh meat four to five times weekly is a benefiting factor in keeping the men in a higher frame of mind. Mail has been irregular, but most men realize the enormous headaches and amount of work that the Postal service has, and feel that at most times there are logical reasons for the irregularity. The defeat of Germany and the promise of an all-out war against Japan also helped to raise morale. After seeing the showing of "Two Down One to Go" most men were resolved to the fact that Air Corps personnel would be needed in large numbers to carry on until the complete defeat of Japan. However, this news had no tendency to lower morale in any way, because the men more or less expected that they would be needed until the unconditional surrender of the Japanese.

Special Services highlight for the month was the sponsoring of a Squadron dance on the 16th. This was in celebration of the organization's first year of overseas duty. The mistake made at the first dance in the Service Club was avoided. Care was taken in choosing the girls so as not to find ones that had to be chaperoned by all

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BASIC: Ltr., 306th Airdrome Squadron, dd June 1945. Subj:
"Historical Data for the Month of May, 1945." (Cont'd)

members of the family. Around fifty girls and five chaperones attended which was sufficient in giving the men plenty of dancing partners. The usual volley-ball tournament of teams made up within the Squadron has continued nightly supplying the men with recreation along the line of sports.

Basketball too is once more coming into its own as one of the chief diversions of the Squadron. The smooth working aggregation that carried the 306th colors back in the states and on the map of the sports world, has reorganized its forces and is on the road back to its former prowess. Sparking the team is Pvt Merwyn (Moe) Merhige, the boisterous battler from Freeport, Long Island, in the role of Captain, and Lt Charles A. Earhart, Squadron Adjutant, as coach. Entering a league about the first of the month with no practice and as a replacement for an outfit that had just moved out, it took the boys a little time to warm up. However, their entry in an imminent tournament comprised of teams with many college stars on their rosters will be the first real test of their ability.

The information contained in this report was compiled and written by Sgt Harry C. Dennis of Headquarters Section.

FOR THE SQUADRON COMMANDER:

/s/ Anthony J. Anconetani
/t/ ANTHONY J. ANCONETANI
1st Lt., Air Corps
Historical Officer

8 Incls

1. Squadron Orders #10
2. Squadron Orders #11
3. Squadron Orders #12
4. Monthly Intelligence Summary
5. Picture-Squadron Area
6. Picture-Its Not Home But the Next Best Thing
7. Picture-Newly constructed Engineering Area
8. Picture-Engineering Maintenance Shops

S E C R E T

306TH AIRDROME SQUADRON

APO 70

20 May 1945

SUBJECT: MONTHLY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 10 Period Covered
20 April to 20 May inclusive.

TO : A.C. of S (A-2), Far East Air Force, APO 925.
(THRU: Channels)

1. INDIVIDUAL CASES: None

2. RUMORS: With the defeat of Germany, rumors concerning the arrival of the advanced echelon of a certain Air Force from the European Theater caused garrulous speculation among the men. It is obvious that more organizations will be arriving and more rumors shall result. Therefore, in an effort to check dangerous and informative rumors, the men have been cautioned concerning the desire of the Japanese to gain information about military movements from Europe. We hope our efforts will make impregnable the "security ring".

3. PROPAGANDA ACTIVITY: The enemy's broadcast that most of our Navy has been sunk off Okinawa was refuted with scorn by the men. They know that such statements are definitely fallacious and place no credence in them.

4. MORALE: The morale of this organization is excellent. The defeat of Germany and the promise of more material and physical help for this Theater contributed greatly as boosters. The announcement of the Point System gave some men false hopes but the showing of the film "Two Down, One To Go", accurately informed them of their status. Most of them concede the fact that they are here for the duration or close to it. A Squadron stage show and dance were accepted with enthusiasm. Educational opportunities are stressed more than ever with the monotonous rainy season approaching. In order to afford athletic participation during the wet spell, our basketball team is entered in a league. However, the inadequate issue of cigarettes and beer finds no plausible explanation in the conjecture of the men.

5. POSITIVE SECURITY MEASURES: The regrettable fact that some men underestimate the Restricted classification because it is the lowest was brought to light this month. Filipinos rifling through a trash can were seen with restricted matter which they intended to use as wrapping paper. In this case it was an Aircraft Identification Booklet but in others it may have been something more important. As a refresher, a bulletin was posted stating the noted discrepancy and also the meaning of the various classifications. That mishandling of such matter can result in a breach of the Espionage Act, was highly stressed. Members of all departments have been urged to burn all classified materials in accordance with AR 380-5. The

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usual monthly inspection of files for compliance with AR 380-5 was carried out. All registered cryptographic matter is used carefully and for the best interests of positive security.

6. UNITS COVERED BY THIS SUMMARY: 306th Airdrome Squadron.

7. REMARKS AND QUESTIONS: The Intelligence Officer's major duty is that of Base Operations Officer. Therefore, he can direct only partial time to Intelligence duties. However, the Intelligence Specialist works full time. Daily news is conveyed to the men through the mediums of: News Board, radio, and afternoon newscasts announced over the Public Address System by the Intelligence NCO. A situation map is located in a suitable place and kept up to date.

FOR THE SQUADRON COMMANDER:

/s/ Frederick W. Strisko
FREDERICK W. STRISKO
1st Lt., Air Corps
Intelligence Officer

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CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

(Signed)
CHARLES A. EARNHART
1st Lt, Air Corps
Adjutant

S E C R E T

306TH AIRDROME SQUADRON

APO 70

AG 314.7

9 July 1945

SUBJECT: Historical Data for the Month of June, 1945.

TO : Commanding General, Fifth Air Force, APO 710.
ATT: Historical Section (THRU: Channels)

As the war pushes closer to the heart of Japan and the battle of the Philippines is drawing to a close, the 306th Airdrome Squadron more or less senses the inactivity that accompanies the closing of a campaign. On January 13th, the 306th debarked from LST 269 and set up camp in Binmaley, Pangasinan, Luzon. That very morning AM's, Refueling and Ordnance personnel were called to the Lingayen Air Strip to start servicing the newly arrived P-38's that were starting to land for the first time on Luzon. Many things have happened since that day in January, and much work has been done, but the men can look back upon it and feel a personal satisfaction in knowing they have done their small part in helping liberate the Philippines.

The turnover in personnel, for the month of June, has followed the same trend as in the past four months although the Squadron is gradually working itself up to T/O strength. On June 1st the Squadron strength was eight (8) Officers and two hundred thirty-three (233) Enlisted Men, and on June 30th was seven (7) Officers and two hundred forty-four (244) Enlisted Men. The decrease of one (1) Officer was due to the reassignment of 1st Lt Charles A. Earhart, Armament Officer, to Headquarters Far East Air Forces at APO 925. Three (3) of our "over 40" men, Sgt Bernard F. Morrissey, Sgt Anthony Henry, and Pfc William S. Frazee, were relieved from assignment and attached unassigned to the 11th Replacement Battalion, APO 714, awaiting their return to the United States for discharge. Sgt Frank A. Rossi, 055, and Cpl Charles J. Hollman, 050, were transferred to Hq & Hq Squadron, 64th Air Service Group, APO 70; Cpl Salvatore p. Carollo, 552, was transferred to the 8th Air Service Group, APO 926; and Pfc Charles G. Allen, 055, to the 1536th Ordnance S & M Co (Avn) at APO 70. Sixteen (16) new men joined the Squadron of which seven (7) came from the 91st Replacement Battalion, six (6) from V Air Force Service Command, two (2) from 1541st Ordnance S & M Co (Avn), APO 70, and one (1) from Hq & Hq Squadron, 64th Air Service Group, APO 70. Comprising the sixteen (16) were five (5) Clerk Non-typists, (055), three (3) Airplane Maintenance Technicians (750), three (3) Airplane and Engine Mechanics (747), an Aerial Engineer (2750), a Munitions Worker (901), an Auto Equipment Mechanic (014), and a Special Vehicle Operator (932). Cpl Floyd Flannery, Pfc Charles W. Horner, Pfc James L. Stroud, and Pfc Melvin Seay were reduced to the grade of Private on June 22nd for misconduct. Ten men were promoted to Private First Class on the 29th and eleven (11) men were

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BASIC: Ltr., 306th Airdrome Squadron, dd 9 July 1945, Subj:
"Historical Data for the Month of June, 1945." (Cont'd)

reclassified on the 5th. Sickness took its usual toll with the hospitalization of S Sgt Melvin Rogers, Sgt Frederick W. Stoldt, Sgt Alvin C. Christian, Cpl Jess W. Baucom, and Pvt Woodruff J. Harrison.

On June 24th, Major Millard S. Parrish was relieved from command and assigned to the Rotation Detachment, Base X, APO 75, for relief from active duty and return to the United States. Major Parrish felt his request for release from active duty was in the best interests of the military service and that a younger officer would be better qualified to command a combat squadron. On the 26th Captain William D. Churchill arrived from the 58th Air Service Group and assumed command.

Captain Churchill comes to the 306th with a thorough knowledge of the functions of an Airdrome Squadron, having been assigned to two others during the past two years. He enlisted in the army on 19 January 1942 and entered Officer's Candidate School (Cadets) at Scott Field, Illinois. He was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant and assigned to the 330th Bombardment Group, Biggs Field, Texas, as a Communications Officer, and later reassigned to the 1st Airdrome Squadron with which organization he came overseas in March 1943. In September 1943, he was assigned as Base Operations Officer to the 1st Air Task Force which was later redesignated as the 308th Bomb Wing. He was later relieved and assigned to the 307th Airdrome Squadron in which organization he served until his new assignment as Commanding Officer of the 306th.

The activities of the Medical Department are almost standard each month, and this month shows almost the same categories of illnesses as encountered previously. The weather, until the middle of June, had been hot and dry, resulting in many cases of heat rash and heat exhaustion. It also caused a flare-up in fungus infection which is so prevalent under these weather conditions and climate. The Squadron is still without a Medical Officer and many man-hour losses are resulting from this. In the past, when a Medical Officer was assigned, he was available at all hours for men to come in for diagnosis and treatment on off-duty hours, but under the existing conditions, sick call is conducted at the Group Dispensary each morning at 0730. This is inconvenient for both the men coming off night shift and others going on duty in the morning. The Squadron dispensary is well equipped, and supplies and equipment are kept at T/E level by requisitions drawn on the 64th Air Service Group Medical Supply Point. All in all, sickness has been kept to a minimum within the Squadron.

Engineering maintenance during the month reflected the decreased activity on the Lingayen strip. This month, the AM's performed maintenance on one hundred one (101) aircraft with the total man-hours

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reaching four thousand, two hundred ninety-six (4296). This was thirty-eight (38) aircraft under the one hundred thirty-nine (139) maintained in May, but the man-hours increased seven hundred thirty-nine (739) hours. Crew No. 8, with Pfc Leland P. Maidlow as Crew Chief, made a double engine change in four (4) days (128 man-hours). This is considered very good time and the 40th Troop Carrier Squadron was very pleased with the quick and efficient work. For the thirty (30) days, sixteen hundred thirty-five (1635) man-hours were expended in the Engineering shops showing a breakdown as follows: Aero Repair - 279 hours; Sheet Metal - 30 hours; Welding - 186 hours; Salvage - 1020 hours; and Electrical work - 120 hours.

The various types of aircraft maintained by the Engineering Section for June are: Eight (8) P-51's, nine (9) P-38's, five (5) C-46's, fifty-eight (58) C-47's, thirteen (13) B-24's, four PB4Y's, one (1) TBF and three (3) L-5's.

Since the liquidation of practically all Jap troops on Luzon, air activities over the Island have decreased considerably for Lingayen air strip. In comparison with the nine hundred, ninety-three thousand (993,000) pounds of bombs delivered in May, the Ordnance Section's deliveries decreased to six hundred, twenty-six thousand, seven hundred sixty (626,760) pounds for this month. The decrease may be due to the ever-increasing use of Napalm Bombs which this organization has not handled as yet. All Ordnance personnel, however, have attended lectures and demonstrations on the uses of Napalm, but up to date have not been required to deal with them. The three (3) organizations to which bombs and two hundred twenty-four thousand (224,000) rounds of cal..50 ammunition were delivered are: 82nd Fighter Reconnaissance Squadron (P-51's), and 17th Reconnaissance Bomb Squadron.

On the Special Services front, chief interest centered around the hotly contested scrub volley-ball game held every evening and attended by a large number of personnel. Each section within the Squadron has its own team and the games are played in a "life or death" manner. The Squadron still has its basketball and softball teams and games are being played on the average of three times weekly with other organizations in and around Lingayen. Three dances were sponsored during the month in our Service Club and each brought out a good attendance. Parties, for Squadron members only, have not been so numerous as in past months, but they are coming more into their own and it is hoped that one can be planned weekly during our future stay in Philippines.

The morale of the organization is excellent. Mail is probably considered the chief contributing factor for high morale. This may

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BASIC: Ltr., 306th Airdrome Squadron, dd 9 July 1945, Subj:
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be true, but past experience has proven that a palatable diet is a most beneficial factor for high morale within this organization. In January, February and March, the continuous diet of "C" rations caused much discontentment and grumbling, and as the food situation improved so did the morale. There are no complaints whatsoever now that servings of fresh meat are almost daily. Cigarettes are plentiful, with the men being allowed to buy four cartons monthly which is an ample supply for even the heavy smokers in the Squadron. The men are more than pleased and grateful for the regular beer issue and PX supplies. All this tends to keep the men contented and satisfied which is three-fourths the battle in maintaining efficiency within an organization.

FOR THE SQUADRON COMMANDER:

/s/ Anthony J Anconetani
ANTHONY J. ANCONETANI
1st Lt., Air Corps
Historical Officer

13 Incls

1. Monthly Intelligence Summary
2. Squadron Orders #13
3. Squadron Orders #14
4. Squadron Orders #15
5. Squadron Orders #16
6. Squadron Orders #17
7. Squadron Orders #18
8. Squadron Orders #19
9. Picture--306th Headquarters Building
10. Picture--Ordnance Personnel and Area
11. Picture--Squadron Service Club
12. Picture--Volley Ball game in action
13. Picture--Airplane Maintenance in Engineering Area

C O N F I D E N T I A L

306TH AIRDROME SQUADRON

APO 70

20 June 1945

SUBJECT: MONTHLY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 11 Period Covered
20 May to 20 June inclusive.

TO : A.C. of S (A-2), Far East Air Force, APO 925
(THRU: Channels)

1. INDIVIDUAL CASES: None.

2. RUMORS: A Rumor that the Americans had been ready to use gas at Belete Pass on Luzon had reached a few men in this organization. Quick action was taken in this case and positive results were obtained. The rumor was completely stifled and never got beyond the few individuals who had heard it. The source was traced to an unidentified person, who claimed he had heard it from Officers of Chemical Warfare School at APO 713.

3. PROPAGANDA ACTIVITY: Enemy propaganda broadcasts themselves reached a low level this period. Most of the Japanese stations talk about inevitable defeat on Okinawa and admit now, that the situation is grave for the Japanese Empire. Men, now, will never place any credence in future broadcasts.

4. MORALE: The morale of this unit still remains as excellent. The arrival of beer issue and daily meals of fresh meat are contributing factors to the unit's morale. Plans for weekly dances are being made and if successful, might keep unit's morale at high standards at all times. The absence of daily rains has given the men the opportunity to indulge in outdoor sports. The men have participated in frequent softball and baseball games.

5. POSITIVE SECURITY MEASURES: Men again were warned in regard to classified materials. This was not because the men had become lax but to keep it on their minds constantly. This last warning was incorporated in the Squadron's Daily Bulletin. Usual monthly inspection of files for compliance with AR 380-5 was carried out and no discrepancies were noted. Men were also informed of the importance of security at this stage of the war. With new equipment arriving in this organization, men are kept conscious of the danger in loose talk, in regard to a possible movement. Posters made by a member of this unit are means of making the unit "security conscious".

6. UNITS COVERED BY THIS SUMMARY: 306th Airdrome Squadron.

S E C R E T

night and an ambulance is kept there at all times. First aid is given to personnel working at the airstrip, assistance is given the Flight Surgeon when necessary, and the ambulance proceeds to the line as a stand-by in case of an emergency.

4. Personnel Changes:

Captain Ellsworth M. Tracy, MC, was transferred to FEAF Headquarters per T&A 51659G, Hqd FEAF, dated 10 April 1945.

Major Millard S. Parrish, Squadron Commanding Officer, was transferred to Rotation Detachment, Base X, APO 75 per letter AG 201, Parrish, Millard S., GHQ, USAFPAC, dated 16 June, 1945.

Captain William D. Churchill assumed command on 26 June 1945, per S. O. 165, Hqd., VAFSvC, APO 710, dated 23 June, 1945.

There were no changes in enlisted medical personnel during the quarter.

At present there is no Medical Officer assigned to this unit.

5. Sanitation:

Water for drinking, kitchen and showers is obtained from authorized engineer water points and distributed throughout the area by means of large storage tanks and Lister bags.

There has been a considerable improvement in the quality of the rations issued by the 1160th Quartermaster, APO 70, because of the increased availability of fresh meat, eggs and oranges. Meats are nutritionally adequate and palatably prepared. Vitamin requirements are supplemented with one multivitamin tablet per man per day. No fresh vegetables were available during the quarter.

Disposal of kitchen wastes are accomplished by means of an incinerator and a series of grease traps. Considerable difficulty was encountered in the disposal of liquid waste and human excreta, due to the high water table, but this was overcome by building up above the ground level the settling basin and latrine. All facilities are inspected each week by the Group Sanitation Officer. The screening on latrines and mess hall is painted with DDT in solution monthly.

Flies and mosquitoes are kept to a minimum by frequent airplane sprays of DDT. Malaria control is rigidly enforced. Field mice and brown roof rats are present but not to any degree important.

6. Care of Sick and Wounded:

The dispensary is not authorized beds. New cases are treated at the 64th Air Service Group Infirmary each morning at sick call. Routine treatments are given during the day as prescribed by the Group Surgeon. There have been no casualties in the unit due to enemy action. The medical personnel are cooperative, capable and well qualified in the performance of their duties.

S E C R E T

Current publications received are: The Bulletin, The Air Surgeon, technical bulletins and literature from higher headquarters, all pertaining to diseases and conditions peculiar to this theater.

Though there have been many cases of common diarrhea, no parasites or ova have been recovered on stool specimens taken. No cases of malaria were hospitalized in the past three months. There have been no cases of scrub typhus in the past six months. The incidence of V.D. has increased during the period. As of 30 June, 1945, and covering a period of three months, there was a total of twelve venereal cases in the squadron of 248 officers and men. Efforts are being made to combat V.D. Known prostitutes in the vicinity have been removed through the combined efforts of the Squadron Commanding Officer, the Military Police and the local authorities. A non-commissioned V.D. Control Officer (medic) was appointed with duties as outlined in FEAF Regulation 25-40, par 2c (1) and (2), dated 20 June, 1945. Suitable posters are displayed in the mess hall, dayroom, dispensary and latrines and pertinent movies are shown when available. V.D. prophylaxis and self protection are stressed in monthly health lectures for the welfare of the men, both physically and morally. Although much could be said on the moral standards of a certain small percentage of the men who indulge in illicit intercourse frequently, there has been an improvement in their cooperation as to the proper use of both mechanical and chemical prophylaxis and their more prompt reporting of suspicious lesions or urethral discharge. No new cases have been picked up in the last two monthly inspections.

The most common complaints that come into the dispensary are skin diseases, such as heat rashes and fungus infections; upper respiratory infections and the lesions of industrial accidents.

One death due to accidental causes was reported in the last three months. No psychiatric cases were evacuated during the quarter.

7. Recreation:

The unit Special Services have been very active. An elaborate Squadron Club was built in the area, complete with a dance floor, booths, stage and soft drink bar. It is cleverly decorated throughout. Dances, stage shows and parties have been arranged at frequent intervals which have been well attended. Also available to the organization are the facilities of the 64th Air Service Group Beach Club where activities, programs and lunches are sponsored by the American Red Cross. On the whole, the unit has enjoyed its stay in this area and the morale of the troops is good.

Dist:
Orig & 3 Cyps - CO, FEAF,
thru CS
Copy - File

WILFRED A. ?
Captain, MC
64th Air Service
Group Surgeon

C O N F I D E N T I A L

7. REMARKS AND QUESTIONS: The Intelligence Officer still can only devote partial time to Intelligence work, because of his major duty as Base Operations Officer. The Intelligence NCO carries out the Intelligence Officer's policies and devotes full time to this work. Daily news is conveyed to the men through the mediums of: radio, News Boards, and afternoon newscasts are announced over the Public Address System. A situation map is kept up to date and located in a suitable place.

FOR THE SQUADRON COMMANDER:

/s/ Joseph A. Auth
JOSEPH A. AUTH
1st Lt, AC
Adjutant

DISTRIBUTION:

Orig and Two (2) copies A.C. of S., A-2, Far East Air Forces, APO 925
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CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

(Signed)

JOSEPH A. AUTH
1st Lt, Air Corps
Adjutant

S E C R E T

64TH AIR SERVICE GROUP

OFFICE OF THE SURGEON

APO 70

SECRET
AUTH: CO
INIT _____

1 July 1945

SUBJECT: Quarterly History of Medical Activities of 306th Airdrome Squadron. (Auth: AR 40-1005, SG8 Ltr., 31 December 1942.)

TO : The Commanding General, Far East Air Force, APO 925.
(Attn: Surgeon) Thru: Command Surgeon.

1. A history of the medical activities of the 306th Airdrome Squadron for the period of 1 April to 30 June 1945 is submitted in accordance with AR 40-1005, and Letter, Meds, USA8G8, dated 31 December 1942.

2. Geographical Location:

The Squadron is still located one-quarter mile northwest of Binmaley, Pangasinan, Philippine Islands, APO 70, in the area described in the report for the first quarter of 1945. During the past three months many improvements have been made in the EM's living quarters and mess hall. An elaborate Day Room was constructed where weekly parties are held. The camp area has been further cleared of debris and civilian houses were moved with attendant improvement in general sanitation. The camp site is kept well policed by Filipino laborers.

The weather, until the middle of June, has been hot and dry, resulting in many irritating cases of heat rash and heat exhaustion. Sinus conditions were aggravated by the constant clouds of dust raised by heavy traffic of adjacent dirt roads. In the past two weeks there has been an increasing incidence of rainfall with more frequent intervals of cooler weather which has brought some relief to the well-being of the troops. Rainwater drains off the area into the rice paddies on each side of the camp.

3. Medical Functions:

A well supplied dispensary is maintained in the Squadron area. The Squadron Aid Station supplies and equipment are kept at T.O. level by requisitions drawn on the 64th Air Service Group Medical Supply Point located within walking distance. No difficulty has been encountered in obtaining required drugs and medications. Climate conditions have not adversely affected medical supplies and equipment. Approximately five pros are given each 24 hours in the Squadron prophylactic station.

The unit medical department also operates a line dispensary at the Goatee Airstrip. Two Medical Enlisted Men are on duty day and

S E C R E T

306TH AIRDROME SQUADRON

APO 70

AG 314.7

9 August 1945

SUBJECT: Historical Data for the Month of July, 1945.

TO: Commanding General, Fifth Air Force, APO 710.
ATT: Historical Section (THRU: Channels)

The activities of the 306th Airdrome Squadron for the month of July again reflected the shaping status of the Lingayen Airstrip in coming operations. With the constant decrease of activity on the strip, work of all departments during most of the month tapered correspondingly. However, with the movement northward of the other squadrons servicing the strip, it was necessary for the 306th to assume the functions and duties being abandoned. Month's end found our unit again working at full capacity with the complete maintenance control of the strip on our shoulders.

Little change was noted in the personnel turnover for the month with the strength showing seven Officers, two hundred forty-two Enlisted men on the 1st and seven Officers, two hundred forty-four Enlisted men on the 31st. Three transfers were effected on overage personnel, transferring Sgt Theodore R. Bardahl (862) to the 49th Air Service Squadron at APO 74; Cpl Matthew Sciaraffa (055) transferred from Air Corps to Medical Corps with the 79th Malaria Control Unit; and Pvt Woodruff J. Harrison (901) to the 1828th Ordnance S & M Co (Avn) APO 70. Sgt Jefferson M. Yeilding (750) was placed on TDY with Hq & Hq Squadron, 46th Air Service Group, APO 74. Three new men joined the organization of which two, Pvt Paul E. Hayes (521) and Pvt Bynum B. Oakes (521), were assigned from the 262nd Replacement Co., APO 72. The other EM, Tec 5 Gordon E. Soderstrom (903), was transferred from the 1536th Ordnance S & M Co (Avn) prior to their departure northward. Four Enlisted Men, at the present time, are hospitalized at the 107th Station Hospital for various illnesses and injuries received during the month. Two Officers, 1st Lt Joseph A. Auth and 1st Lt Thomas F. Heiser, were promoted to the rank of Captain.

Fourteen Enlisted Men and one Officer, from Headquarters, Far East Air Forces, have been attached to the organization for quarters and rations. It is their responsibility to take over Base Operations on Lingayen Strip thereby relieving 306th personnel for the future move northward. The men quickly learned the functions of Goatee Operations and are now in complete charge of all air traffic.

The Ordnance-Armament section experienced the handling of rockets for the first time when they installed Navy type rockets on P-38's belonging to the 475th Fighter Group. Two missions daily were flown and the responsibility of loading fell on the seven armament men in the section. Delayed action fuses were also experimented with this

S E C R E T

BASIC: Ltr., 306th Airdrome Squadron, dd 9 August 1945, Subj:
"Historical Data for the Month of July, 1945." (Cont'd)

month and were proven highly satisfactory in the Infantry's action against the enemy in Northern Luzon. These bombs were delayed anywhere from six to seventy-two hours depending upon the mission called for. Approximately 600,000 pounds of bombs were delivered to the 110th Reconnaissance Squadron, 117th Reconnaissance Squadron, and 82nd Fighter Squadron. A few transit B-25's were serviced and the 38th Bomb Group required services after their own personnel departed on a northward movement.

Engineering maintenance during July was confined in general to Transient aircraft and has been one of the busiest months for the section. Due to the departure of three Service Squadrons, the 306th took over complete operation of Lingayen strip including all maintenance and refueling. Four thousand, five hundred thirty-one man-hours were expended of which two thousand, five hundred forty-two were on aircraft and one thousand, nine hundred eighty-nine performed in shops. A breakdown of maintenance is as follows:

<u>TYPE ACFT</u>	<u>NO. SERVICED</u>	<u>MAN HOURS</u>
C-47	45	566
C-46	40	467
L-5	3	56
B-25	6	82
P-38	4	76
B-24	7	845
L-4	1	42
UC-45	1	295
P-40	3	44
TBM	1	4
C-G	1	36
P-51	5	18
A-26	2	2
PB4Y	1	3
P-47	1	4
A-20	1	2
<u>TOTALS:</u>	<u>122</u>	<u>2542</u>

SHOP HOURS

Salvage Crew	468
Aero Repair	234
Carpenter Shop	372
Welding Shop	60
Prop Shop	315
Paint Shop	72
Reclamation	468
<u>TOTAL:</u>	<u>1989</u>

S E C R E T

BASIC: Ltr., 306th Airdrome Squadron, dd 9 August 1945, Subj:
"Historical Data for the Month of July, 1945." (Cont'd)

The Transportation section had one of its busiest months during July with the issuance of the new equipment beginning to arrive in this theater. It was their job to see that salvaged equipment was in the best possible condition before being turned in. Lt Guy C. Dempsey, tech Supply Officer, was assigned the additional duty of Transportation Officer and it was his responsibility to requisition and procure all new transportation vehicles and equipment. The following is a list of new vehicles received by this organization:

5	Truck, Cargo	2½ Ton	6x6	Airborne
2	Truck, Dump	2½ Ton	6x6	Airborne
6	Truck, Wea. Carrier	3/4 Ton	4x4	Airborne
1	Truck, Wrecking	7½ Ton		C-2
1	Truck, Tractor	4-5 Ton	4x4	Autocar
4	Truck	¾ Ton	4x4	
1	Ambulance	3/4 Ton	4x4	
1	Trailer, Semi	12½ Ton		Flatbed

It is felt that the issue of this new equipment will add greatly to the effectiveness of operations at our new base.

Medical activities remained much the same as in previous months with the Squadron still maintaining both a line and a Squadron dispensary. As yet, a Medical Officer has not been assigned to the organization and many man-hours are being lost through this. One thousand, one hundred sixty-four treatments were given in the unit dispensary with skin diseases leading the list of all ailments. Cuts, bruises, burns, minor digestive disorders, and upper respiratory diseases are listed in order of importance on the treatments given during the month. At the present time the line dispensary's duties consist of gathering up cadavers and taking them for burial to the cemetery. However, many injured patients are first given medical attention, morphine administered if necessary, and taken to the hospital. Approximately eight crashes were attended during July. Four hundred eighty-two treatments were given to personnel on the line, mostly as a result of minor lacerations. A unique and very adequate heat lamp was devised by Squadron Engineering which has proven highly beneficial in treatment of minor sprains and muscle discomfort.

The month of July showed more than the usual athletic activity in the field of softball. Nineteen wins and one loss crowned the month's record for the Squadron team as being a banner one. The possession of a new ball diamond contributed greatly in propagating the efficiency of our team and also stimulated intra-squadron games. The highlight of the month was a ball game between the older men in the unit, humorously called the "Black Ghosts", and the Squadron

S E C R E T

BASIC: Ltr., 306th Airdrome Squadron, dd 9 August 1945, Subj:
"Historical Data for the Month of July, 1945." (Cont'd)

team dubbed the "Unholy 10". The game was held with jubilant enthusiasm and an excellent Squadron attendance was gratifying. The seven innings were sparked with humor and good fellowship.

The Service Club was highlighted with week-end parties and a newly appointed committee saw that the men were furnished with off-duty entertainment. Group singing, ping pong and bingo games pleasantly added in the effort to keep the men's morale high. Plans for future novel entertainment are in the making.

The morale of the organization is excellent. Many factors contributed to this and have been largely responsible in maintaining excellent morale of the men. As was mentioned before, number one morale builder for the 306th has been a palatable diet since the end of hostilities in Europe. The men are also more satisfied with the present arrangement of buying cigarettes and cigars monthly instead of depending upon grat issues. The men have also taken a great interest in the Club and elected a committee which has been largely instrumental in developing a full program each month. Plans are in the making for more entertainment, dances and parties to occupy the men in off-duty hours.

FOR THE SQUADRON COMMANDER:

/s/ Anthony J. Anconetani
/t/ ANTHONY J. ANCONETANI
1st Lt., Air Corps
Historical Officer

- 5 Incls
1. Squadron Orders #20
 2. Picture--Squadron Commander
 3. Picture--Utilities Technician
 4. Picture--Service Club Bar
 5. Picture--Transportation Repair Shop

S E C R E T

306TH AIRDROME SQUADRON

APO 70

AC 314.7

9 September, 1945

SUBJECT: Historical Data for the Month of August, 1945.

TO: Commanding General, Fifth Air Force, APO 710.
ATT: Historical Section (THRU: Channels)

"News in the Making" was a mild forecast of what the month of August held in store for GI's and civilians throughout the world. Beginning the eighth month of 1945, organizational activities remained the same as in the past, but this was soon changed when orders came through on the 5th for the 306th to break up camp and prepare for departure to a forward area. Little then did the men realize that within ten days history would be made, bringing to an end the most terrible war the world has known. When moving orders were received, rumors began to flow fast and furious within the Squadron and practically every island between Japan mainland and Formosa was predicted as the Squadron's destination. Some said "Japan"; others mentioned Ie Shima, Okinawa and various other islands in the Ryukus Group, but these were soon overshadowed by a delay in orders, news of the atomic bomb, Russia's entry into the war, and Japan's peace feelers directed at the United Nations. Minutes seemed like hours, and hours like days the short time prior to the official word on Japan's surrender. Nothing mattered during that period except the questions, "Will Japan surrender?" or "Is it another Jap trick?". Finally, at approximately 0800 hours, the morning of the 15th, those questions were answered by an official announcement from President Truman that Japan had accepted the terms of the Potsdam Declaration. Celebrations were in store that no GI could be deprived of, and as other outfits, the 306th celebrated that victory their efforts helped to bring about. Apparently, the results of the unexpected events effected the cancellation in movement orders thereby restoring the Squadron to full activities on Lingayen strip.

Due to the ending of hostilities in the Pacific, the month of August shows a preview in personnel turnover that is to be prevalent in months to come. On August 1st the strength of the Squadron was seven Officers, two hundred forty-four Enlisted Men, and a deletion of fourteen Enlisted Men during the month decreased the ranks to seven Officers, two hundred thirty Enlisted Men on the 31st. Hospitalizations took its toll of eight Enlisted Men with most cases diagnosed as hepatitis. On the 28th four men with ninety-eight and ninety-nine points, Sgt Herbert M. Waggoner, Sgt Leonard G. Hale, Pfc Charles R. Eyrych and Pvt Charles W. Horner were transferred to the 138th Replacement Battalion, APO 714 for the homeward journey to the States. The following day, M Sgt Adelbert K. Armitage,

S E C R E T

BASIC: Ltr., 306th Airdrome Squadron, dd 9 September 1945, Subj:
"Historical Data for the Month of August, 1945." (Cont'd)

T Sgt Samuel G. Ebert, Pfc William H. Arnold and Pfc Raymond Trotter, all with eighty-five points or over, were transferred to the 22nd Replacement Depot, APO 714, also on their first lap toward being discharged under the point system. Two men, Sgt Robert D. Westerhouse and Pfc Bernard M. Sherman who had been hospitalized, rejoined the organization. Pfc Martin T. McKee, Clerk-Typist, was transferred to Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, V Air Force Service Command, APO 710, and T/5 Gordon G. Soderstrom, Weapons Repairman, to the 1691st Ordnance S & M, APO 337. Both men left the Squadron on August 29th. Two new men, Pvt Paul E. Hays and Pvt Bynum B. Oakes, both 521's, were transferred into the organization from 93rd Replacement Bn. One Officer promotion was effected on the 21st promoting 1st Lt Guy C. Dempsey to the rank of Captain.

The morale of the organization is difficult to classify for August due to the spasmodic changes that took place during the month. Prior to the official news of Japan's surrender announced by President Truman, morale tended to lower and raise accordingly to each radio broadcast. However, this held true for millions of people throughout the world although the effect was greater for troops in the Pacific. For a period after the official news was announced, morale soared to an unprecedented high, but within a few days started on a decline which can only be classified as satisfactory. This was caused chiefly by a continuous unappetizing diet of the so-called "Spam", dehydrated foods, and canned pork and gravy. It's difficult for the men to realize the necessity of such a diet when it's known throughout the Squadron that other areas in Luzon are receiving palatable food. It seems that no counter measures concerning this can be effected until Quartermaster is allotted a different variety of rations and fresh food. Both cigarette and beer issue were satisfactory which has more or less a counterbalance effect on morale-lowering incidents. The morale of the organization for the month of August can most nearly be classified as satisfactory.

Now that peace is officially upon the world again, Special Services will be called on to function in a much wider field. These activities will center chiefly on an educational and recreational program designed to occupy the men in their off-duty hours. Classes are already organized within the Group giving each man the opportunity of choosing a course which may benefit him in civilian life once again. Enrollments, at first, are naturally expected to be small, but as time passes, more interest will be shown in the field of education, thereby causing new courses to open up. In addition, a recreational program has been devised requiring all personnel to enter into one of three sports - swimming, volleyball and softball. In compliance with a directive from higher headquarters, a program has been set up whereby each man is required to participate in a sport for a certain period each day. 1st Lt Mike W. Pepper, Squadron Ordnance Officer, has

S E C R E T

BASIC: Ltr., 306th Airdrome Squadron, dd 9 September 1945, Subj:
"Historical Data for the Month of August, 1945." (Cont'd)

been delegated complete supervision of this program for 306th personnel. An additional task has been placed upon Sgt Albert S. Scialfo, Special Services Non-Com, giving him the job of setting up a news-sheet for daily distribution within the Group. This keeps the men well informed and up to date on the rapidly changing events going on in the world today.

Being the only operating organization on the line, Engineering now has the additional task of performing light maintenance on all aircraft based at Lingayen strip. This, and maintaining all transient aircraft adds up to a big job, considering that transient maintenance has to be done in an expeditious and efficient manner. Maintenance for August shows little change over past months in total man-hour performance. The following tables show a complete picture of man-hour performances, aircraft handled and various hours expended in the operations of shops:

<u>TYPE ACFT</u>	<u>NO. SERVICED</u>	<u>MAN-HOURS</u>
C-47	36	582
B-25	16	714
C-46	21	281
P-38	20	312
P-47	1	16
PBM	1	4
P-51	2	25
B-24	7	46
F-6K-15	1	15
L-5	4	58
F-6K-5	2	80
C-64	1	24
F-6D-25	1	25
F-6K-10	2	24
<u>TOTALS:</u>	<u>115</u>	<u>2206</u>

SHOP HOURS

Salvage Crew	624
Aero Repair	90
Carpenter Shop	312
Welding Shop	180
Propellor Shop	468
Reclamation Shop	468
<u>TOTAL:</u>	<u>2142</u>

S E C R E T

BASIC: Ltr., 306th Airdrome Squadron, dd 9 September 1945. Subj:
"Historical Data for the Month of August, 1945." (Cont'd)

Acft Hours Expended.....	2206
Shop Hours Expended.....	2142
<hr/>	
TOTAL:	4348

FOR THE SQUADRON COMMANDER:

/s/ Anthony J. Anconetani
/t/ ANTHONY J. ANCONETANI
1st Lt., Air Corps
Historical Officer

- 4 Incls
1. Squadron Orders #22
 2. Commendation
 3. Picture--Squadron Personnel
 4. Picture--Airplane Engine and Stand

HEADQUARTERS
64th Air Service Group
APO 70

AG 201.22

21 August 1945

SUBJECT: Commendation.

TO: Commanding Officer, 306th Airdrome Squadron, APO 70.

1. I wish to convey my personal thanks and appreciation to you and the men of your unit for the outstanding good will and cooperation extended to me during the period of my command of the 64th Air Service Group.

2. My association with the Group's component units is one that I shall always remember with satisfaction. The support given me by yourself and other unit commanders created a spirit of unity that facilitated solving the many problems that beset us.

3. It is through such wholehearted effort and diligent attention to duty that the Group was able to establish an enviable record, contributing our part to the achievement of our final victory.

/s/ William J. Davitt
/t/ WILLIAM J. DAVITT
Lt. Col., AC
Commanding

A TRUE COPY

/s/ William D. Churchill
/t/ WILLIAM D. CHURCHILL
Captain, Air Corps

S E C R E T

306TH AIRDROME SQUADRON (SEP)

APO 70

AG 314.7 .

9 October 1945

SUBJECT: Historical Data for the Month of September, 1945

TO: Commanding General, Fifth Air Force, APO 710
ATT: Historical Section (THRU: Channels)

September saw the ultimate and complete end of hostilities as Japan signed the unconditional surrender terms. On September 2nd in Tokyo Bay was enacted one of the most impressive, by and large, the most gigantic display of Naval and Air Power by the United States and Allied Nations, to convey to the Japanese that everything would be carried out to the letter. The proceedings took place aboard the USS Missouri, one of the most powerful battleships of our Navy. It was indeed a very subdued enemy that boarded the ship to sign the document. During the actual signing the only noise to be heard was the drone of thousands of B-29 Superforts and fighters that flew cover for the occasion. The highlight came when General of the Army Douglas MacArthur signed using several pens and presenting them to our Army and Navy Commanders and to representatives of the Allied Nations.

The 306th Airdrome Squadron saw lots of changes made both in its operations and its personnel. Our Maintenance and Operations of the Lingayen Air Strip continued from the 1st till the 28th of the month when we terminated all activities. Technical data as to the planes serviced and man-hours expended are not available at this time. Due to an expected move north all the data has been packed for shipment. Most of the time was spent between packing and maintenance. It was the end of the most successful job in both maintenance and operations, of which every 306th man could well be proud of. The expediency and loyal effort of every man on his own particular job, however small, helped bring about the grand victory which is now ours.

There were 57 members of our Squadron who left for redeployment back to the States. They were all key men in the organization and although their departure was heartfelt by all, we wish them Godspeed to a well earned trip home. Directly on their departure we received 31 Enlisted Men assigned from the 76th Airdrome Squadron and 3 Officers attached unassigned from the same organization. 139 Enlisted Men and 5 Officers were attached unassigned from the 60th Airdrome Squadron. This brought the strength of the Squadron to 15 Officers and 343 Enlisted Men, an all-time high since August 1945 which was then 7 Officers and 254 Enlisted Men.

S E C R E T

BASIC: Ltr., 306rh Airdrome Squadron, dd 4 February 1946
Subj: "Historical Data for the Month of December 1945 (Cont'd)"

The morale of the Squadron may be classed as very satisfactory. The men were all busy with more work than could be handled and the recreation provided was also plentiful. The food was excellent - fresh meat and potatoes were plentiful. However, each man is anxious to go back home. Many of the "old-timers" have gone back. Thus closed the year 1945 for the 306th Airdrome Squadron.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

/s/ Anthony J. Anconetani
/t/ ANTHONY J. ANCONETANI
1st Lt., Air Corps
Historical Officer.

S E C R E T

306TH AIRDROME SQUADRON

SECRET
AUTH: CO
INIT: _____

1 January 1946

SUBJECT: Quarterly History of Medical Activities of 306th Ardm.
Sqdn. (Auth: AR 40-1005, SG8 Ltr., 31 December 1942.)

TO: The Commanding General, Far East Air Forces, APO 925.
(Attn: Surgeon) Thru: Command Surgeon.

A history of the medical activities of the 306th Airdrome Squadron for the period of 1 October to 31 December 1945 is submitted in accordance with AR 40-1005, and Letter, Hdqs, USASG8, dated 31 December 1942.

On 14 December 1945, the entire unit left Binmaley, Luzon, P. I., boarded LST 1096 and proceeded to the port of Wakayama, Honshu, Japan. Adequate quarters were available on board for approximately 150 men. The strength of the unit at the time of the move was 343. As a result, much inconvenience, discomfort and even hardship was endured by the enlisted men. No one on board had winter clothing or sufficient blankets so that severe upper respiratory infections were suffered by nearly 100 of the unit personnel. Satisfactory sanitation was maintained with difficulty.

On debarkation on 24 October 1945, a portion of the personnel set out for tasks with the vehicles in convoy. The remaining men followed by train. The unit moved in temporarily with Hq and Hq SQ, 46th Air Service Group and three component units of the group at the Kanai Card Wool Co., located between Itami and Takarazuka in the Osaka area. During the first two weeks in our new area, until winter clothing can be obtained, keeping warm was the primary concern of everyone. The sudden change from hot to cold climate was not a pleasant experience.

The dispensary of the 306th was combined with that of the 46th Group and a common sick call was held until 5 November 1945 when that Headquarters moved to a new location. A building of four rooms made an adequate dispensary with treatment room, examining room, supply room and office.

As soon as warm clothing was issued, unit personnel began to settle down to a comfortable living, but 14 November the unit was moved to the Itami Air Strip where it was housed in old wooden Japanese barracks. When the building had been cleaned and ceilings and stoves had been installed, we had reasonably comfortable living quarters. The dispensary, consisting of one large main room with a smaller room for supplies, was set up in one end of the barracks. On 9 December a fire, which apparently started from defective wiring, destroyed the building. Narcotics and records were saved by the enlisted man on duty; everything else was lost. A new and better dispensary was set up and in operation in 3 days. New equipment was obtained almost entirely from the 186th Air Service Sq which had ceased operation because of lack of personnel.

S E C R E T

5. Sanitation and Nutrition:

Water has been obtained from Engineer water points for drinking, kitchen usage and showers and distributed throughout the area by large storage tanks and extensive pipe systems.

A new concrete grease trap has been constructed by the organization. It has five separate compartments instead of the usual three and has proved highly satisfactory.

Flies and mosquitoes have been adequately controlled during the period.

6. Care of Sick and Wounded:

The dispensary is not authorized beds. New cases are taken to the 64th Air Service Group dispensary for diagnostic service, then are treated in the unit dispensary. The Medical personnel are well trained to perform their duties.

Current publications are received promptly. Of special interest was the newly inaugurated Journal of Military Medicine in the Pacific.

V.D. has remained a serious problem although prophylaxis and self protection has been constantly stressed. A pass system is in use at present, requiring the men to report sexual contact, and space is allotted for appropriate entries by the pro station attendant. The system has not been in usage long enough to report its results, but it is felt that it will provide one of the answers to the problem.

The usual complaints treated in the unit dispensary are skin disease, upper respiratory infections and industrial accidents.

No psychiatric cases were evacuated during the quarter.

7. Recreation:

The Day Room has been maintained during the period and has added much to the morale of the men. A moving picture projector has been obtained and three shows a week have been held. All have been well attended. It is felt that the morale of the troops is very high.

WILFRED A. HU ?
Captain, MC
64th Air service
Group Surgeon.

List: '
Orig & 3 Cyps - CO, FEAF, thru CS
Cpy - File

S E C R E T

306TH AIRDROME SQUADRON
APO 660

AG 314.7

9 November 1945

SUBJECT: Historical Data for the Month of October, 1945

TO: Commanding General, Fifth Air Force, APO 710
ATT: Historical Section (THRU: Channels)

The first half of the month was an ideal one for the Enlisted Men of the outfit. The strip had ceased operations in the latter part of September. All operational equipment was packed and crated by the 4th of October. The orderly room also had ceased operations, except for a skeleton crew on duty in half-day shifts. We were "sweating" out an LST which has to take us to our final destination in the Pacific, Japan. The boat was supposed to have docked the night of the 3rd, so rumors had it. The next day they said it had been in, but had to go back to Manila for minor repairs.

We had a nice recreation program set up, under the supervision of 1st Lt Mike W. Pepper and Pfc Martin J. Mehall. Softball, football and swimming were the main attractions. Of course the ping-pong table and horseshoe courts were filled most of the time, too. Also a show every night.

You could walk down the company street almost any time of the day and see a dozen or more games of pinochle plus plenty of Enlisted Men catching up on sack time. Food was fairly good and there always seemed to be plenty of beer around. Morale was high. It was almost like a rest camp, but it had to end sometime, and it did. Saturday afternoon, October 13th, the notice was posted on the bulletin board for all personnel to be ready to leave at 0400 the next morning. They actually woke us up at that time, too.

A convoy of trucks left for White Beach, San Fabian about noon Saturday. The rest went up Sunday morning. Camp broke at 0430 hours and the first personnel left for White Beach at 0500. Final convoy of trucks loaded with personnel left the Squadron area amid cheers and tears of our Filipino friends at 1000 Sunday, October 14th. Arrived White Beach at 1130 and loading operations were already underway.

We had our first meal aboard LST #1096 at noon. Loading was completed at 0100 hours of the 15th. When we awoke the next day we were standing off-shore about a mile. Everybody was anxious to get underway, but it was 1600 before the engines started and we turned north out of Lingayen Gulf, destination secret.

S E C R E T

BASIC: Ltr., 306th Airdrome Squadron, dd 9 November 1945, Subj"
"Historical Data for the Month of October, 1945." (Cont'd)

The first couple of days out were uneventful. Due to the fact the boat was loaded quite heavily, there wasn't room for all EM to sleep below. During the rains, which were plentiful, there was a mad scramble of Enlisted Men trying to find a corner below decks where they could grab a few winks of sleep. Some of us were lucky and had a truck to sleep in, others slept under tarps and ponchos.

The third day out, the sea got rough. The next day it was worse. We ran into a storm, which slowed us down considerably. A few trailers tipped over, causing minor damages. The fifth night out was the worst of all. A Navy loading crane broke loose and in the process of tying it down, a couple of boys were injured. A sailor got both of his legs broken and the other, a soldier, received minor cuts and bruises. The following day we started to run out of the storm and everyone felt better. The morning of the seventh day, October 22nd, land was sighted. We sailed up the east coast of Japan all day and that evening about 2100 hours dropped anchor in Wakayoura Bay, Wakayama, Honshu, Japan. We couldn't get an unloading zone till the next day.

About 2100, 23 October, we headed into shore. It was 2300 before the pontoon and ramp were in position. Unloading operations started immediately and continued on through the night. By 0700, 24th October, all of the vehicles were on the beach. They formed the convoy and it was ready to move at 0900. The men not going in the convoy were taken to Osaka by train. A few men were left behind as guards for equipment still on the beach.

The convoy pulled out of Wakayama at 0930 and headed for Osaka, approximately fifty miles away. This trip took us through some of the scenic mountains of Japan. At points in our travels through the mountains, we ran across one-way drives, delaying us for as much as one-half hour. All we could do was wait for the oncoming convoy to pass us by and then proceed on our way.

We arrived in Osaka about 1500 and were directed to Itami Air Field. From there we were sent to Karai Card Clothing Factory near the small town of Itami which is on the northwest side of Osaka. Chow was ready when we arrived and we were assigned to temporary quarters. At 2100 all you could hear was deep breathing, as a bunch of tired GI's hit the road to dreamland.

A couple of days later we moved into dormitories, six men to a room. The best housing conditions this outfit has ever had.

Our headquarters was set up on the 25th. The payroll was put out and things started rolling. A few men went to work on the line right away and by the end of the month most of the men were busy.

S E C R E T

BASIC: Ltr., 306th Airdrome Squadron, dd 9 November 1945, Subj:
"Historical Data for the Month of October, 1945." (Cont'd)

On October 30th we lost eight good men by redeployment per Par 8 SO 138, Headquarters 310th Bombardment Wing (M) dated 29 October 1945. I know the Officers and Enlisted Men of the Squadron will miss them. We wish them Godspeed on their way home.

Among the eight redeployed was Captain William D. Churchill, our Commanding Officer, and upon his leaving Captain Albert L. Neyhard assumed command of the Squadron per Par 5 SO 197, Headquarters 46th Air Service Group dated 29 October 1945.

With good food, plenty of beer, good living conditions plus beautiful weather, the morale of the Squadron is high but the 60-pointers are really sweating it out. Let's get them home.

FOR THE SQUADRON COMMANDER

ANTHONY J. ANCONETANI
1ST Lt, Air Corps
Historical Officer

S E C R E T

BASIC: Ltr., 306th Airdrome Squadron (Sep), dd 9 October 1945, Subj:
"Historical Data for the Month of September 1945" (Cont'd)

The morale was high with good food such as fresh eggs, meat, vegetables and butter and also the thoughts that sometime in the near future, we would all go home. We enjoyed a good month of sports both competitive and recreational. Our ball team switching from softball to baseball won 16 games and lost 3. Swimming drew many of the boys down to the beach for many enjoyable hours. In this climate, swimming is our most formidable weapon in combating fatigue, which is so prevalent in this area. Horseshoes and ping-pong tournaments also came in for a great deal of attention. In the ping-pong games there were many exciting and close games played with every player vying for top honors.

Who can foresee the future of the 306th Airdrome Squadron with such an enviable record in its 17 months overseas and who now looks forward to the occupation part it will play. It is my sincere belief that they will carry themselves to a new threshold, both in conduct and their duty. Peace is once again with us.

FOR THE SQUADRON COMMANDER:

/s/ Anthony J. Aneconetani
/t/ ANTHONY J. ANECONETANI
1st Lt, Air Corps
Historical Officer

S E C R E T

64TH AIR SERVICE GROUP.

OFFICE OF THE SURGEON
APO 70

SECRET
Auth: CO
Init: _____

1 October 1945

SUBJECT: Quarterly History of Medical Activities of 306th Airdrome Squadron. (Auth: AR 40-1005, SG8 Ltr., 31 December 1942.)

TO : The Commanding General, Far East Air Force, APO 925.
(Attn: Surgeon) Thru: Command Surgeon.

1. A history of the medical activities of the 306th Airdrome Squadron for the period of 1 July to 30 September 1945 is submitted in accordance with AR 40-1005, and Letter, Meds, USASG8, dated 31 December 1942.

2. Geographical Location:

The Squadron is still located one-quarter mile northwest of Binmaley, Pangasinan, Philippine Islands, APO 70, in the area described in the last two reports. The unit was alerted for forward movement during the first week of August. Preparations proceeded with the tearing down of the Enlisted Men's quarters to crate the lumber. The order was rescinded about a week later and, due to uncertain conditions, the floors have not been replaced.

Frequent rains have kept the dust from becoming too bothersome, thus alleviating some of the sinus conditions in the organization. The humidity has been high following rains. Drainage has been accomplished through the rice paddies on either side of the camp.

3. Medical Functions:

A unit dispensary and a flight line dispensary are still maintained as previously reported. Medical supplies were obtained during the report period from the 64th Air Service Group Medical Supply point until it was closed during the early part of September, then from the 107th Station Hospital, APO 70. No difficulty has been encountered in obtaining necessary supplies.

4. Personal Changes:

At present there is no Medical Officer assigned to the unit.

There were no changes in Enlisted medical personnel during the period.

306TH AIRDROME SQUADRON
APO 660

AG 314.7

4 February 1946

SUBJECT: Historical Data for the Month of December, 1945

TO : Commanding General, Fifth Air Force, APO 710
ATT: Historical Section

The close of the year found the "306th" actively performing its occupation duties. Each man remaining in the Squadron has seen some of his friends leave for home. The question is, "will next month find me on orders?" But with the Squadron being on its twentieth month overseas, many men have well earned that trip back home.

Personnel turnovers found a high peak this month. The Squadron strength was 98 men at the close of the month as compared with 182 at the end of November. Two Officers left the Squadron: 1st Lt. Paul Kuhn, Armament Officer, and Capt. William B. Kirtland, Medical Officer who was transferred to the 46th Air Service Group. There was a large difference between the 105 men who left the Squadron against the 23 who joined it during the month. Many EM promotions were effected. Among them included Anthony W. Kennedy who was promoted to Master Sergeant - M/Sgt Kennedy is the 306th Line Chief.

Although hostilities are over, necessary precautions must be maintained. Visiting and accepting presents from Japanese families was prohibited. Everyone in the Squadron, including the First Sergeant, pulled tours of guard duty. Since the Squadron was the only organization actually living at the airstrip besides a colored Quartermaster Truck Co., guard duty was quite frequent. Special precautions were noted for certain dates, namely Dec. 7, since it is hard to actually learn the Japanese mind. The shortage of personnel also necessitated that the men work the following day, but the men realize that there is still a job to be done.

The Engineering Section has performed superior maintenance as in the past. There was no definite word on whether or not a base set-up was to be made or whether operations should continue on the set-up it had been operating under. However, the "306th" kept all the planes flying that they were capable of with the personnel assigned. It is to be noted that the first two engine changes at this station were effected by the 306th. Much more work can be accomplished in hangars. These were the first that the "306th" worked in since the 306th was the base maintenance unit at Pueblo Army Air Base, Colorado, twenty months ago. Only a few of the old Engineering personnel were left that could remember those days. The Squadron Engineering Officer is 1st Lt. Anthony J. Anconetani. The amount of third echelon work performed was enviable due partly to the versatility of twin brothers - Sgt R. B. Green and Sgt R. J. Green, Aircraft Sheet Metal Workers who, besides performing structural repair

S E C R E T

BASIC: Ltr., 306th Airdrome Squadron, dd 4 February 1946
Subj: "Historical Data for the Month of December 1945 (Cont'd)"

on P-47's, built up the outer half of an L-5 wing, damaged greatly through ground looping, so that the finished job looked like a new wing. The alert crew handled all transients difficulties - "Keep those transients flying out", is their word. The Squadron serviced the 348th Fighter Group and the 40th Troop Carrier Squadron, both at this station. In addition, it took over the A-26's and A-20's left by the deactivated 417 Bmb. Group. Over 50 aircraft were serviced and given at least one one-hour flight per week under the supervision of F/O Jack V. Coghtan. Engineering operations were the busiest this month per man since the Squadron activated.

Some excitement occurred which was never expected. One of the Squadron barracks caught fire on the morning of December 15. The barracks was ablaze immediately and nothing could be saved from the flames but the records of the Medical Department, and they were saved only through luck when a man on sick call threw out a locker, not realizing what was in it. The Squadron's two fire trucks were immediately called but the fire was out of control before anything could be done, due to intense heat. Two men who were sleeping in the room, having been on duty the night before, barely escaped - no injuries, but none of their possessions were saved. The cause of the fire is unknown.

A week before the crash crew was also alerted at approximately 2100 hours, the Squadron was called to get the fire truck immediately down to a C-47A which started burning. The man on duty at Base Operations noted some flame in the cockpit of the airplane. It was night at the time but the fire trucks drove out immediately. Before the fire could be put under control the flames reached the right wing fuel tanks. The airplane was a total loss and the origin of the fire was not definitely ascertained. In addition to being on the alert for crashes while on duty on the airstrip, the Squadron's crash crew was really busy. At word of "fire" everyone "jumps".

Recreation reached a high peak. Several dances were held in the Squadron throughout the month, the largest being on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. Beer was plentiful and some Japanese women were invited. The parties were all well behaved. Special Service Section also procured souvenirs for everyone - a sabre and rifle for men leaving for home. The men did not stand short on war trophies. Other recreational activities included a movie three times per week. 1st Lt. Frederick W. Strisko performed an admirable job in his additional duty of Special Service Officer.

During the previous report period the unit was without a medical officer but on or about 26 September, William P. Kirtland, Capt. MC came to the unit from the 80th Airdrome Squadron where he had been Squadron Surgeon since that unit left the states in September 1943. On 19 December Capt. Kirtland was transferred to Hq and Hq SQ 46th Air Service Group to replace the Group Surgeon who was returning to the states. Jay H. Henderson, 1st Lt., MC is now acting as Squadron Surgeon, as yet he is not assigned.

There has been a gradual egress of medical personnel from the unit during the period. Fortunately, four medical enlisted men were sent to us from the 59th Portable Surgical Hospital early in December when the unit was deactivated. On 6 December the last of the original 186th medics left for the states. Men in the medical section at the present time have had excellent training in military medicine. Two hours of lectures are given each week to medical personnel. Sanitation, first aid to aircraft casualties and routine dispensary care have been stressed during the period.

Present camp is located on poorly drained clay soil beside the Itami Air Strip. Quarters, offices and mess hall are set up in old wooden barracks. One other building has been divided into a mess hall and chapel, another into a dining hall, kitchen, bakery and storeroom. Mess kit cleaning facilities are heated by an improvised petroleum burner. Personnel are examined monthly for communicable disease, intestinal parasites and are immunized for typhoid, small-pox and cholera. All garbage is removed from the area by civilians. Deep pit latrines are used. Hot water is available because of the ingenuity of the Squadron Plumber who installed a complete system. Laundry and dry cleaning are done by a civilian for all personnel. Officers' quarters and mess are located in a separate building of the same type used to house enlisted men.

Since about the first of December the medical section has provided an ambulance for the medical enlisted men for duty at the Itami Air Strip. The Squadron Surgeon is on call at the dispensary from 0600 to 1130 each day for emergencies occurring at the strip. The afternoon shift is divided among the other Air Force officers in the area.

Attendance at sick call has diminished in proportion to the progressive return of personnel to the U. S. Upper respiratory infections are the chief cause of concern. A few cases of malaria have been seen, but the infection was undoubtedly picked up in the Philippines or other tropical areas. There are no insect grubs in the area and diarrhea is a rare complaint. Rodents do not present a problem at the present time but precautions are being taken to prevent multiplication of the rodent population. Venereal disease, ubiquitous among the organized Japanese prostitutes, continues to be a problem. Education of troops continues by lectures and posters. A supply of mechanical and chemical prophylactics is kept available to everyone beside the pass book for men leaving the area. Bed checks are made frequently by the OD and civilians are not permitted in the area after working hours.

Distribution:
Orig & 5 Copies to CG thru CS
Copy - File

JAY H. HENDERSON
1st Lt., MC
Acting Squadron Surgeon

306TH AIRDROME SQUADRON
APO 660

AG 314.7

8 February 1946

SUBJECT: Historical Data for the Month of January, 1946

TO : Commanding General, Fifth Air Force, APO 710
ATT: Historical Section (THRU: Channels)

The start of the new year has found the 306th Airdrome Squadron operating with the smallest number of personnel since the Squadron has been overseas. However, as in the past, the "306th" is in there pitching. Operations and work performed has shown a sharp increase. "Itami Airbase is almost synonymous to "306th Airdrome Squadron".

All but one of the original "306th" personnel has been replaced. The continual personnel change has not affected the efficiency of the Squadron as much as might have been expected. Planning beforehand and the consolidation of the service squadrons with the "306th" has resulted in excellent operation. In the early part of the month Major Victor J. Mullen assumed command of the organization, replacing Captain Albert L. Neyhard who was redeployed. All the personnel of the Squadron are cooperating under the able leadership of Major Mullen. During the month the Squadron had two regular army enlistments - Cpl William A. Battise and Sgt Aldin V. Whittle. The end of the month found the Squadron with 60 men, compared to 98 men.

The Medical Section is handling its assignment capably. It is considered quite fortunate that the general health of the Squadron is high; and, as in the past, an ambulance is always "standing by" at the airstrip for emergencies.

The appearance of an organization's vehicles reflects the efficiency of the organization. The Squadron Motor Pool, in addition to supplying transportation for various purposes, is keeping its vehicles well maintained and "shined".

The Engineering Section has done more than was deemed possible. Starting the month by doing a major portion of the maintenance at the airstrip, the close of the month was highlighted by the Squadron performing all the airstrip service maintenance. A total of 3009 Engineering man-hours were expended on maintenance during the month. The following is a breakdown of Engineering operations:

S E C R E T

BASIC: Ltr., 306th Airdrome Squadron, dd 8 February 1946, Subj:
"Historical Data for the Month of January 1946 (Cont'd)"

<u>TYPE ACFT</u>	<u>NO. SERVICED</u>	<u>MAN-HOURS</u>
A-20	2	52
A-26	12	326
B-25	14	1193
C-47	17	473
C-46	4	33
F4U (Navy)	13	20
F7F (Navy)	3	6
L-5	2	82
P-38	2	106
P-51	14	619
<hr/>		
TOTALS:	83	2910

Of the above aircraft, one L-5, three C-47's, one P-36, one P-51, one A-20, two A-26's and seven B-25's were given 1st and 2nd echelon maintenance throughout the month by the Squadron Crew Chiefs. Two ships were salvaged due to accidents resulting in damage beyond repair. "Keep them flying" is the Section's motto. A mechanic school is set up giving almost entirely on-the-job training. It is hoped that replacements are coming soon. The hangar shops are nearing completion - better than "stateside" is the goal.

The morale of the Squadron may be considered very satisfactory. Present coal stoves are not adequate for barracks heating. Other hindering factors are:

1. Slow-down in mail from home.
2. Poor barracks.
3. Too frequent guard detail.

Recreational activities are provided to keep the men occupied. The Squadron Service Club consists of a ping-pong table and reading material. Movies are held three times a week. Cigarettes and PX supplies are available in sufficient quantities. Plenty of fresh meat and potatoes have done the most to keep the morale high. The largest single detriment to higher efficiency is the freezing of ratings for men eligible for redeployment. Many of the men were unable to obtain ratings in the past due to lack of T/O vacancies. Freezing of the ratings is removing the incentive for excellent morale among deserving men, who at the same time are the men who are doing the work. The men realize there is a job to be done and are doing it as the 306th has always done.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

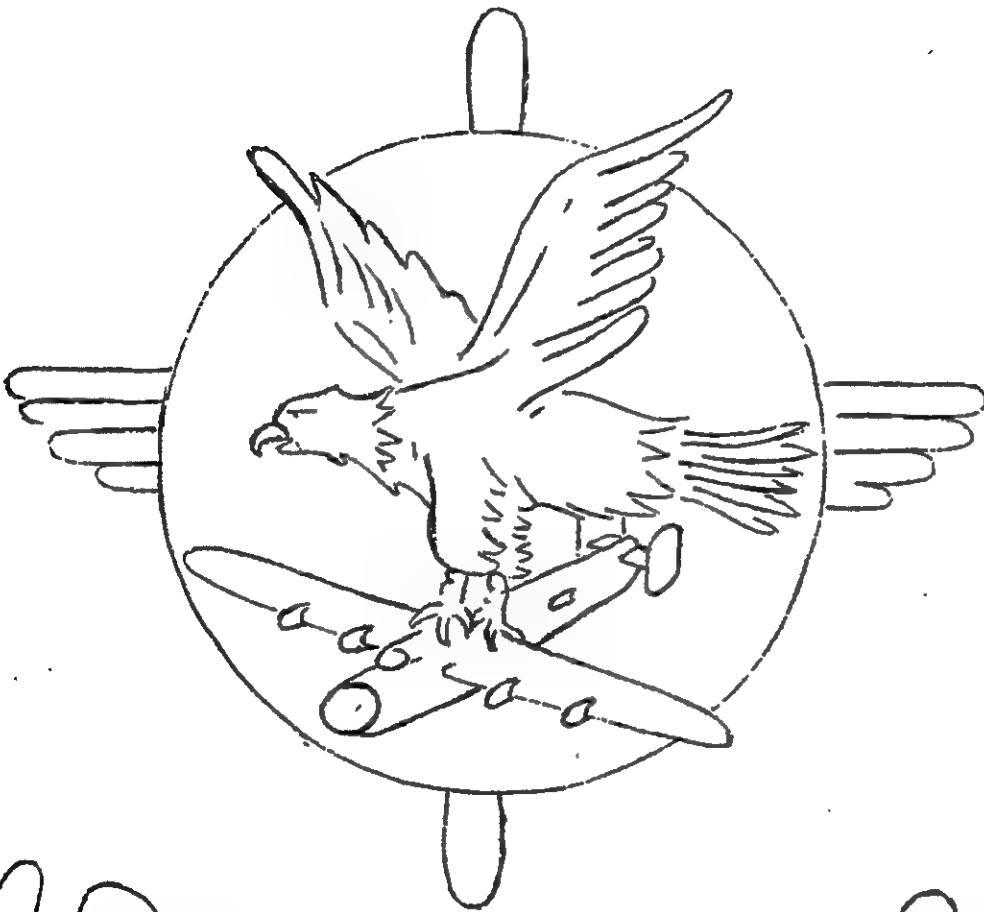
/s/ Anthony J. Anconetani
/t/ ANTHONY J. ANCONETANI
1st Lt, Air Corps
Historical Officer

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306



AIRDROME 30



HEADQUARTERS
306TH AIRDROME SQUADRON

World War II

SUBJECT: Short History of the 306th Airdrome Squadron.

TO : Children and Grandchildren of former 306th Members.

1. This letter has been written expressly to answer that pressing question, "What did you do in the Second World War, Pop?" In case the old boy's memory is weak, herein lies some of the facts of the organization he spent the greater part of his army career in.

2. We were justly proud of the old 306th, she was known as the Fightin' 306th, by her members at least, and although we weren't intended to be a front line unit, she did her fighting by keeping 'em flying.

3. To start at the beginning, as all stories or histories must, we came from all parts of the States, and we were from all walks of life; teachers, lawyers, students, farmers, doctors, mechanics, men about town, and all the rest. Most of us were drafted, some enlisted just before the "greetings" card reached us, and a few were old timers in the Army. We attended various schools in the army, learning what makes the engines go, how to patch up a plane, how to make out the paper work that the army dearly loved, how to operate and maintain radios, teletype, radar, and keep the men happy at the same time. Then came the orders that brought us all together.

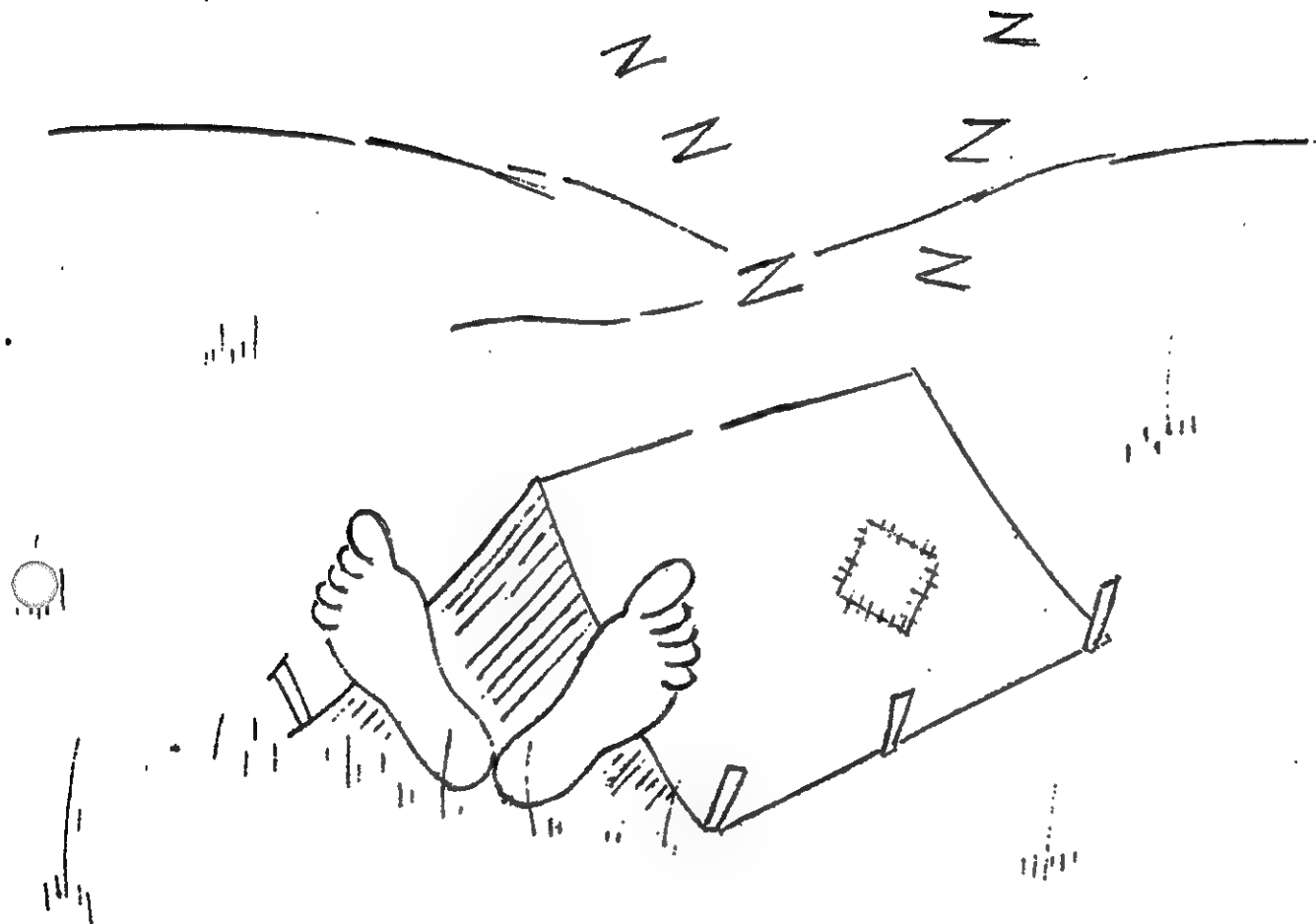
4. Yes, the old 306th was a proud organization, so if we brag a bit you'll surely excuse us. We had moments of discomfort, and minor disagreements, but they soon passed with the esprit de corps as high as ever. If the old boy happens to meet another former member of the organization, don't look harshly upon their reminiscing, nor frown if they drink a few too many toasts to the old girl. They amply earned that privilege through the proud record of the old lady.

5. One last word before we get to the actual history. If the old man relates some adventures that weren't transcribed herein, don't doubt him, it's merely something we forgot to add.....

The Recorders.

GEIGER FIELD

○ SPOKANE, WASHINGTON.



4 JULY 1943
To

24 OCTOBER 1943

EW.P.

Moses Lake: About 20 of us, of which ten or fifteen are left, still remember Ephrata, Washington. We moved the forty miles to Moses Lake on Trucks. When we arrived, our complete Squadron equipment consisted of 13 brooms and 10,000 obsolete Technical Orders. Capt. Guy C. Dempsey was our Commanding Officer then and Lt. Frederick W. Strisko our Adjutant. Both were 2nd Lts. and very green in the ways of army life.

The town of Moses Lake offered no entertainment and so most of our evenings were spent in the Beer PX. The base was small but it offered many of us our first chance to fly in a B-17. The days went quickly because we were all sweating out furloughs and moving orders. We marched and had a WAC Sgt. drill us one day. "Pop" Smead threatened to lick every man in the outfit the day his whistle was stolen and we'll all remember how the pull pressure on his Colt .44 diminished every day. How he could pull the darned thing out of the holster without shootin' himself is beyond us! While playing ball one day, the orders came to us to get moving - we're gonna leave for parts unknown.

73rd Airdrome: We arrived the 4th of July at Geiger early in the morning after a beautiful move planned by Lt. Dolan. The convoy as it pulled in looked as if a band of gypsies was about to descend on the airstrip. The trucks were loaded to capacity and were amply strewn with dogs or dogs of dubious pedigree. The one thing making the convoy look conspicuous other than our animal friends was the way the brooms, rakes and shovels were loaded on the trucks. It made one think that they had been used until the last minute, and indeed they were!

At Geiger Field we were in for a real surprise. No one was there to greet us and no one seemed to know where to put us. We were finally assigned to barracks that were approximately one mile apart. The first night we dined at consolidated mess - Good food, compared to the pitiful subsistence dished out by the red-headed mess Sgt. at Moses Lake. After about a week of wandering around, trying to find the flight line and not doing a good job at it, we were assigned to permanent barracks. They were within a block of both the theatre and PX and were a constant source of unrest to our esteemed Commanding Officer, Major "Hammerin' Hank" Hunter. At this time many men were assigned to us from other organizations and our name was soon changed to the "Fightin' 306th".

Major Hunter's first order was for us to get ready for basic training. The course was to last 7 weeks and was to be followed by a boat trip direct to the front. A greater farce can't be imagined. Prominent conversation dealt with Ol' Pop Rudolph's line of baloney about the three wars he fought and "Cherry's" Drilling, Paul Lamasney from Supply and "Borrowin" Harris never did stand a formation. The favorite trick of the men when on the drill field was to get old "Hank" into a conversation on the field artillery. From "computah" to "pro-jectyls" and the whistlin' of shells overhead took at least two and one-half hours and by that time it was time to march back to

chow. There was nary a morning that at least 25 of us were not caught in the PX eating or shooting the breeze with the twins at the milk bar. Of all the attempts at seduction made, we've often wondered how they kept their jobs and virtue.

The activities on the base were of small importance compared to the goings on in Spokane. After making out our own passes and signing same with the accompanying "E M" of Ernie Mac Adams, we breezed out of the camp and into the dens of iniquity that dotted Spokane. Trent Avenue, the street near the river and railroads, held the famed "Senate" bar where so many of us danced with the homeliest the west had to offer. The main drag was marked by the Davenport Hotel. One night in particular, a boy from Arkansas was seen running up and down the corridors banging on the doors with a bottle in one hand.

While all this revelry was taking place, our basic training was drawing to a close and we were to be given our last problem - Bivouac at Camp Seven Mile. For a group of city slickers, this campin' trip was to be something of a novelty. The week before had been filled with speeches and directions for camping out by "Hammerin' Hank". Fully described in both words and pantomime were directions for giving hair cuts with a tree stump for a barber chair, keeping one's feet dry, dubbing shoes and avoiding mosquitoes. One of the most foreboding thoughts was the fact that we were to subsist on "K" rations for three days.

We arrived at the chosen spot and mindful of all our lectures we dispersed our pup tents in such a manner that a 25-pound frag bomb would have killed 95% of all the enlisted men. The officers roughed it in six-man pyramidal tents and slept on dreadfully hard cots. During our stay, we went through ordeals playfully called "Guard Duty", "extended Order Drill" and "Gas Discipline". On Guard Duty, the most frequent post visited was number 4 where "Big Joe" Glatfelter sneaked through to visit his wife who came out to visit him. Extended order drill made real horsemen out of Campbell, Hale and Marfurt who sneaked off to Camp Nine Mile Bridge to buy food while on an enforced hunger strike. "Pop" Rudolph never did complete an order of "extend to left" without losing four or five men in the bushes. No one believed the Gas Alarm at night because we all had inside information that nothing but smoke would be used. The confusion that followed the introduction of tear gas can be better imagined than described. One afternoon in particular, half of the Squadron hid in the bushes on one side of the Spokane River and watched a 4-F try the noble art of seduction with a girl in slacks on the opposite side of the river. After two hours of absolutely no progress, the soldiers jumped out of hiding and gave free advice to the frustrated male.

Additional features were MacAdams' empty holster, about which a song was sung, and a hike during which we all were soaked to the skin because "Major Hunter" said "Ah don' believe it's gonna rain".

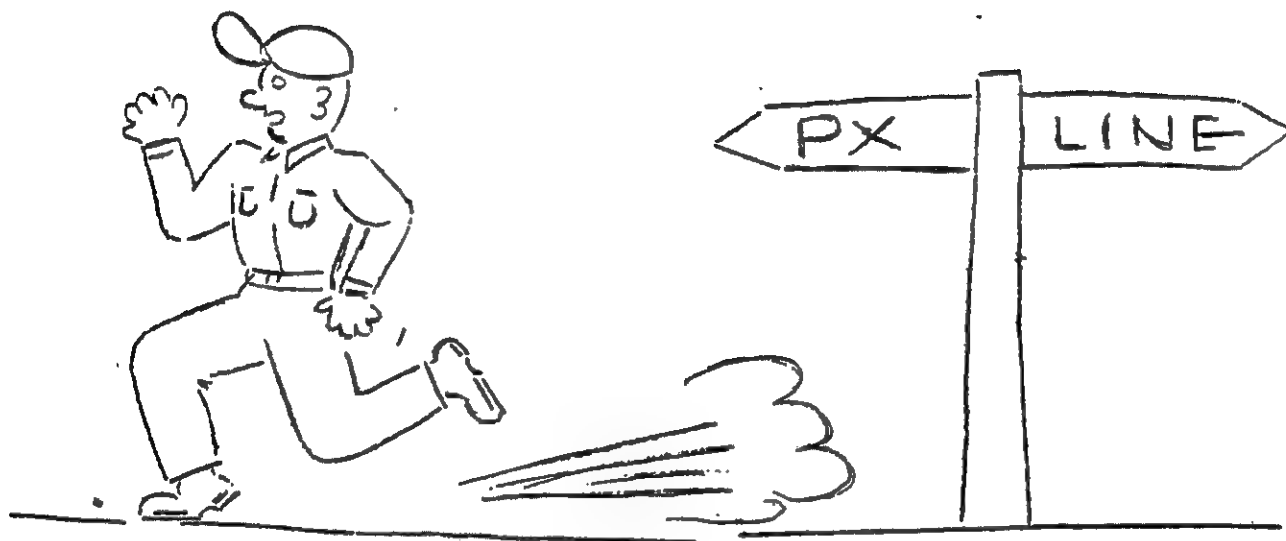
We were all thankful when we loaded our junk into the truck and came back to Geiger Field. I think that we could truthfully

say that fully 50% of the outfit went to the PX that night and ordered steaks.

After settling down to the routine of working on planes and making out passes to town, our Commanding Officer came down with a case of "overseas fever". The cry of "Get rid of yo' dogs, clean up yo' affairs, and send yo' wives home" rang through the camp daily. Some men followed his instructions but others hung on through weeks of contradictory orders from the Orderly Room, supplemented by rumors from "Rumor Russ".

The orders read briefly--Oct 20--Pack up, we're leaving--Oct 21--unpack--Oct 22--Pack--Oct 23 unpack! We left Oct 24th on a night that was cold enough to freeze a guy's "ears" off. Remember how we talked to the FBI man to find out where we were going??? The trip was uneventful til we reached the Wind River Valley in Wyoming. It was there that Charles Clark, who just had bought a new watch, decided to clean up his seat by throwing the papers out the window. In the process of throwing, he threw his watch out too and there was weeping and gnashing of teeth til we hit Colorado Springs.....

PETERSON FIELD.
COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO.



24 OCTOBER 1943

To

10 JANUARY 1944

On the evening of October, 1943 an event took place that will long be remembered by the 306th. The Squadron entered Peterson Field Army Air Base. As we approached the base we could readily see what was in store for us.

As we leaped from the train, which we had gotten so tired of, we were met by a wind which swept over the plans from the foothills of Pike's Peak, along with clouds of sand. After standing in this for an hour or so, we were directed across the field and up a hill to some one-story barracks that we were told to occupy. It was now getting late, in fact, too late for some of the fellows to obtain bunks for the night. But after managing to eat chow, those that were lucky enough to find beds jumped in for a good night's rest.

The following morning all personnel were called together by Major Hunter to impress upon us the condition in which he expected to find our area at all times. (Shine dem shoes, Boys!) Remembering the problems he had had with the organization taking it easy in the PX at Geiger Field, he made the statement that he was pleased to find the PX so far away from the area. (He only had to walk further to find the men, as it turned out later.)

As soon as it was possible our equipment was unloaded from the train and moved to our assigned hangar. All the fellows were anxious to get to their work, because putting in their time on the line was a lot easier than dodging "Ernie" all day to evade details, of which there were plenty. In a couple or three days we were in operation, both day and night we had men on the line, and our mechanics, from long experience, did maintenance on all types of planes.

It was during this period that the remainder of the fellows received their furloughs, due to the expected date of our departure to POE.

A few days before Thanksgiving preparations were started for the great event. The mess hall was arranged and other plans were made to make the holiday the next best thing to being home. Together with the GI turkey, we purchased beer, candy and oranges. The CO also gave permission to the fellows to invite any of their friends, wives or relatives. Many came and added to the success and enjoyment of our Thanksgiving.

Now nearing the first of December we were preparing for the POE. We were supposed to be ready along in mid-December. This processing took most of the men from the line. We were processed and went through the regular routine, first inspections, then our immunization records were completed very simply by just taking four or five shots at once. We even stood formal retreat and were now getting down to the serious side of things. By trying to impress upon us the seriousness of going overseas, Major Hunter would tell us of his experiences in the Field Artillery, way back in the hills of Tennessee and the swamps of Louisiana. Then he would always end his

talks with the phrase, "We is goin' to P-O-E!!!" But after all those weeks of preparation we were taken off the alert and once more we went back to work.

By this time winter had actually set in and snow and rain were everyday occurrences. We gained valuable experience in the operation of the pot-bellied stoves that the Army provided in a feeble attempt to keep us warm. They could be red hot when we went to bed, then cool off rapidly during the late hours of the night. Some brave soul would venture forth in the morning to light them again while the rest of the fellows pretended to be asleep while the barracks regained some semblance of warmth.

The cold weather caused the air strip to be closed most of the time, and it was all a fellow could do to keep himself warm.

It was now nearing Christmas, and most of us had big plans ahead. Preparations again were being made in the mess hall for the turkey dinner. Then, like the army always does it, to make life miserable, they (They is the term always used for higher authority, it pertains to someone we don't know, and definitely don't like!!) came in and notified us we were moving to a new area. In spite of all the long faces and the complaining, the moving went on. Outside as usual, there was about five inches of snow and fifty mile-an-hour gale. To move your equipment in such weather when it seemed unnecessary was worse than our later moves in New Guinea in all the mud and rain. In spite of all this the Squadron completed their move to the new area, and had a nice set-up in time for the Christmas holidays as planned.

All during this time we were still in operation on the line, even though the weather was terrible and there weren't many planes in the air, maintenance was still carried on by our Engineering, Armament, Ordinance and Communications Sections.

Although our barracks were class "A", with the aforementioned stoves, and the latrines were only a quarter of a mile away, the base had other good qualities. The high life for the NCO's was the "Sergeant's Club", where nearly all the privates overlooked the fact that rank was necessary to feast, drink and enjoy themselves. There were the bowling alleys that occupied several hours of the evenings, days off and many other days that weren't off.

We didn't think too much of the town, it was too high priced to be a soldier's ideal town. Some of the more energetic type rode horseback over the nearby ranges, some of us went out to the Broadmoor Ice Palace, the USO Commandos were given a rich variety of places to strut their stuff, and the boys that enjoyed liquid forms of entertainment could go to the "Blue Spruce" (classy), the "El Dorado" (not bad) and the "Wagon Wheel" (dump). For the more serious minded, the town offered the excellent Art Center with complete displays to suit everyone's tastes.

The small PX which was located such a distance from our area that it was almost impossible to make the hike in one hitch. One would either have to stop by the Library to get warm, or stop by the Chapel to say a prayer that we would complete the trip.

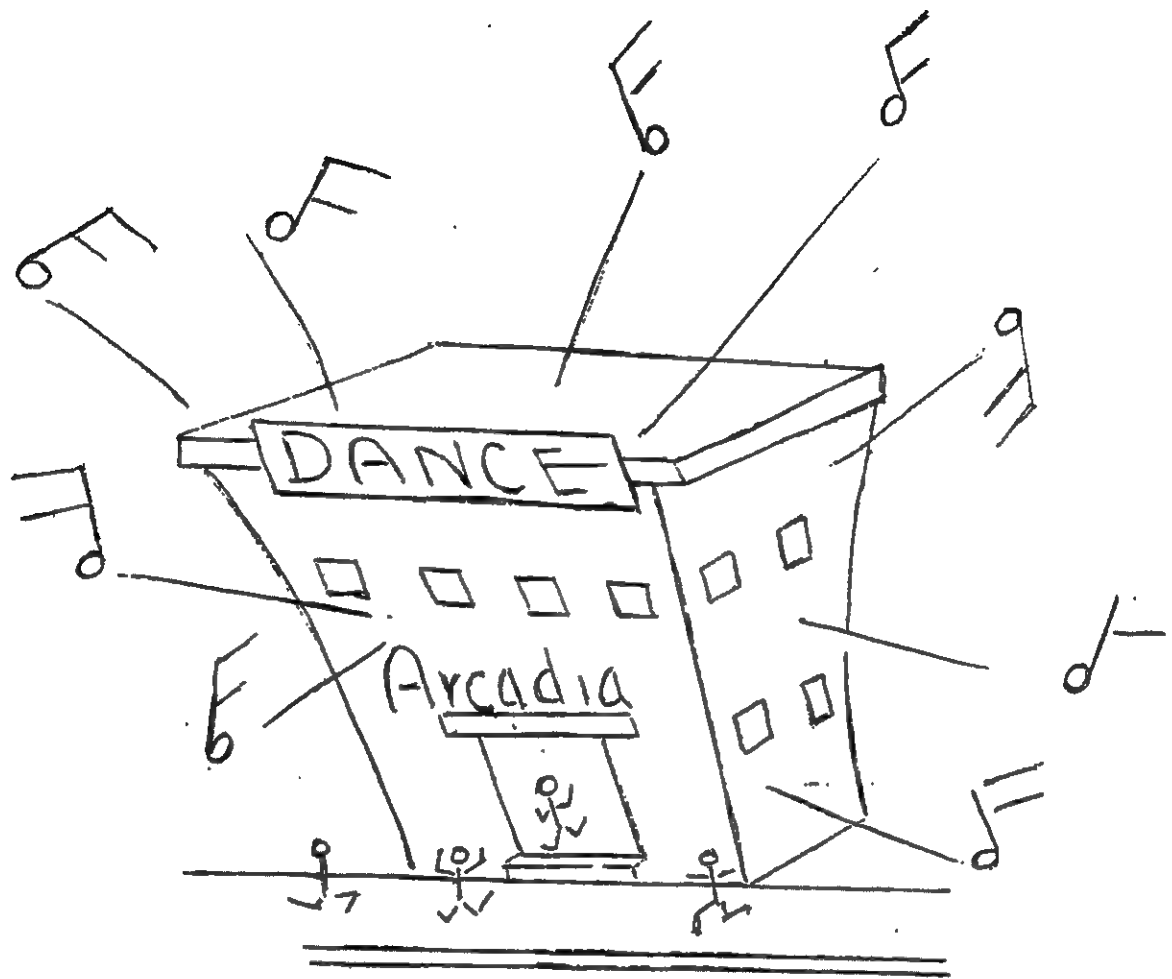
The Chapel wasn't located too far from us, because each Sunday our Squadron was well represented. When Christmas arrived, a choir was organized, and a few of the fellows in the outfit took part in singing Christmas carols both at the base and in town.

Located across the street from the Chapel was the big theater building, where we would form a line a mile long to sweat out our tickets. Once inside, we'd find ourselves crowded on wooden benches. The benches were finally replaced with regular seats, shortly before we left, of course.

Again the rumors of POE were in store for us around the first of the year, but this didn't continue too long. Yes, we were in for a move and shortly after our New Year's celebration and feast we received orders to pack our equipment. Once again we followed the army routine of "hurry and wait". For several days we waited to see what would be the outcome. One day there came definite word of our departure and on the morning of January 10th, 1944, we were loaded on trucks where we sat for two hours, waiting to form a convoy.

When the convoy finally came, and everything was satisfactory to the Commanding Officer, we were all nearly frozen but the worst was yet to come. We had a fifty-mile ride to complete and knowing the army, we thought we'd never get there. But after a five-hour ride we completed our trip - the first, and last, movement to be made by the Fightin' 306th.....

PUEBLO, COLO.



10 JAN 1944

TO

6 MAY 1944

After a two-hour truck ride from Peterson Field, we arrived in Pueblo Army Air Base. We got there just in time to have noon chow at the nearly completed consolidated mess hall. We should write about the chow line that used to gather there, but as most of us have sweated or froze out so many, we will come to a screaming halt.

The Pueblo Army Air Base is considered one of the best in that area. That can be vouched for by many of us. There we found a Post Exchange, equalled only by the one at Geiger Field, Washington; a very good gym, recreation hall, bus system and a very good theater. When it came to the religious side of a fellow's life, there was plenty of opportunity for it as we had two beautiful chapels. Enough about the base - now - WORK.

In one sense of the word, we could have been called a Base Squadron, as we did practically the same work. We had men on the line in Flight Line Maintenance, Base Refueling, Air Corps Supply, Sub Depot (both Line and Service Shops), Personal Equipment Office, and several other jobs pertaining to the line. Then we had men in various jobs on the base pertaining more or less to administrative matters, for example: Base Headquarters Communications. Almost anywhere on the base where a job was being done one could find someone there from the 306th. For our work there we received high praises and many compliments. During this time many rumors were circulated about our move to the Port of Embarkation and a slow and easy process of packing our equipment was getting under way. This eventually led up to one of the smoothest moves we ever made.

Although everyone did fine and dandy on the job, it did not in any way hinder the organization's social side of life, in fact everyone was very active in this. This also included "night life" and plenty of it. We had several well-known USO boys, lots of the fellows joined church societies and other organizations of that type. No one ever worried about what he would do in his spare time. Any afternoon in the week after 1800 one could visit the Post Exchange Beer Garden (Officer's Tea Room from 0800 to 1700) and he would find the boys on the well-known "Liquid Diet" gathering there. This place was very popular with our men as statistics will show. (Check with the Post Exchange Officer at Pueblo). Any night at closing time one could very easily notice that well over half of the patrons were men from our organization. The beautiful (?) barmaids loved every one of us. Many stories could be scribed about goings-on in there, and the best ones would be about the farewell parties. (We were restricted to the base.) After second thought, we won't mention them, they caused too many headaches and might be embarrassing to some of the old gang. Almost akipped the bowling alley - we had a pip.....

Now into town for places of amusement, Pueblo didn't stand short on these places as we shortly found out. Well mention a few of the better known places, and then tell the old man to sit down, or lie down, either is good, and dig out his fond memories of the place he liked best. In town we had "Victory", "Blue Bird",

"Senate", "D & M Grill", "The Frog", "The Black Swan", "Quickie", "Whitman", "St. Joe's", "Arcadia", and all the rest just around the corner. Space doesn't permit listing them all but those should be enough to get conversation started. Now, out of town a bit, we ran into the "Broken Dollar" and "Mamie's Shack", they 'way out to "Stem Beach", which was a nice quiet place, sometimes..... The Squadron had gags "assigned" to these places. Many's the story that could be written about these "joints" and their visitors, but again, space just can't bear it.

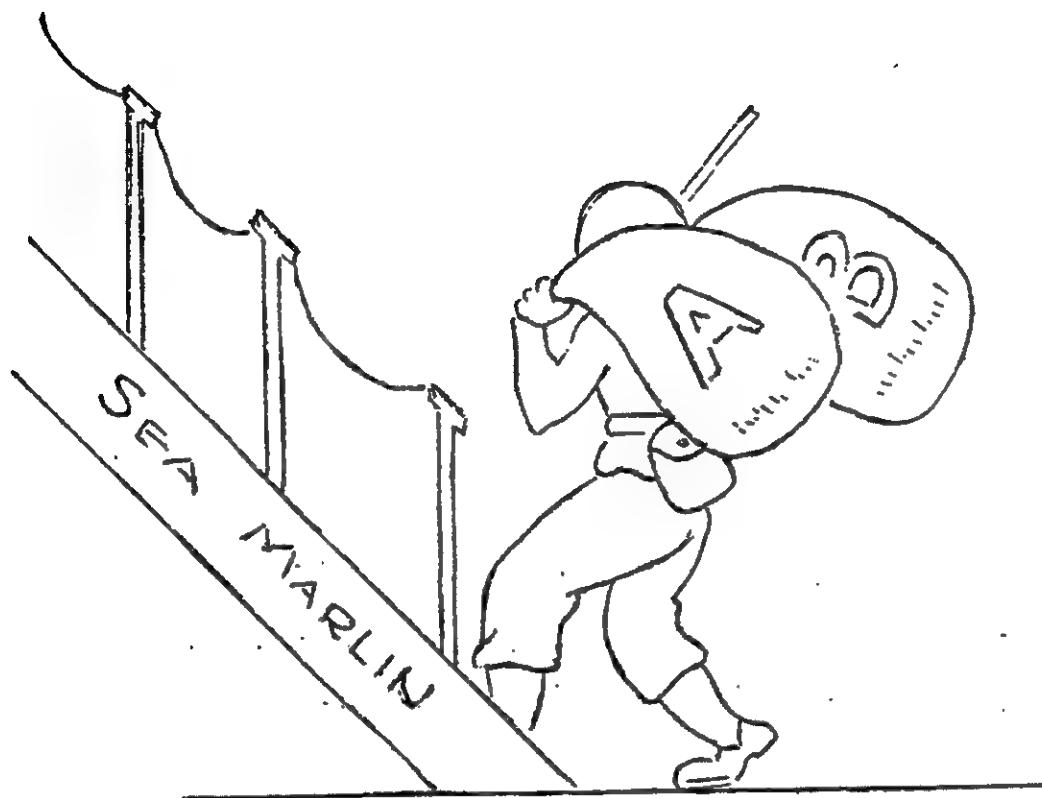
Some of our boys managed to find their way out to Bessemer. Bessemer is the section bordering the steel mills. Here the cafes, beer gardens, etc. were not large affairs but just the same a fellow could have a grand time there. One of the best known places in that section was "Gus' Place". Gus could have easily named his place "The Cross Road" as his patrons came from every type and walk of life; young people, old people, business men, mill workers, laborers and many others. Let's just call it an international affair. The draw card was the "biggest beer in town for a dime". After our departure it was reported that the above mentioned place said the 306th helped improve their financial status a great deal. Last, but not least, we print in fond memories the following names: "Congress Hotel" and "Hotel Vail".

There must always be a time in a man's life when several things must happen. First, several of our officers and men walked off into the valley of matrimony. Funny thing, they all seemed happy about it, too. Along about this time came several promotions for the Officers, and many for the men. All were quite proud of them and they deserved them, too. Then too, most of the fellows enjoyed short furloughs, thanks to the one and only, irreplaceable, Major Henry (Hank) Hunter. (Where yo' hat, Boy?).

As we had been expecting, one of the POE rumors came true. One fine May morning we finally realized that we were going somewhere when we fell out to march down to the troop train waiting for us at the main gate. The personnel of the base gave us a fine send-off, afforded to none before us. The Base Band, the "Big Brass", along with some "Heavy Silver" was there to send us off in grand style. This climaxed an enjoyable stay in an enjoyable place. Now, off to the POE at last!!! Darn those rumors.....

We finally pulled out, amid sad farewells and, after passing through part of Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona and California, we arrived in Camp Stoneman at Pittsburg, California.....

CAMP STONEMAN PITTSBURGH, CALIF.



6 MAY 1944

TO

15 MAY 1944.

Many GI's have good cause to remember Camp Stoneman, for it was there that the army made our last days as pleasant as possible. For some of us, much more of Camp Stoneman, and it would have been our last days - - period.

For a long time prior to our arrival we had known of the rigid physical examination we would have to pass at POE. The day we showed "our all", there must have been a bunch of specialists on duty, for they seemed to be interested in just one thing, or maybe word of the 306th and its past had already reached the ears of the Medical Department before our arrival. Anyway, we seemed to be in good fighting trim and every man had - "QUALIFIED FOR OVERSEAS DUTY" stamped on his records.

The next day we had our introduction to "The Deck". This was a sort of a "forty-foot, I'll-bet-you-can't-do-it" proposition. All that was required of the GI was to climb a rope net or ladder slung against a 90° wall. Just to make it more interesting we had to mother a fifty pound pack and a rifle to the top and back down again. Reward for reaching the top was the dubious honor of being able to gaze down at your buddies sweating it out to the top below you. Your descent was next and about all you could do was hope that somebody would have a good time spending your insurance that you were about to leave behind you any minute now.

Following this we attended a lecture on the "Life Raft", or better yet, "What To Do When Your Boat Sinks". Although the corporal in charge laid down no vital statistics on the matter, the way he talked you could just gather that nine out of ten ships never made it. We found out that if we were lucky enough to dodge the submarines and floating mines, fire on board would get us anyhow, so we had better listen. (Incidentally, it was the afternoon after this lecture that we were asked if we cared to increase our insurance.) What a little morale builder the lecture this guy handed out was! About that time the question on everyone's lips must have been, "What are our chances of reaching our destination after leaving Frisco?" From the gist of the whole talk, Lloyds of London wouldn't have wagered a ten-cent bet on this Homeric expedition.

The next day we attended a lecture on Censorship, or by its rightful title, "Don't Bother Writing". We did find out, however, that you could write home and call your CO a son-of-a----- and get away with it. (i.e. - as long as he didn't censor your letter.) Whether some brave souls ever tried this or not was never known.

And then to make sure that our stay at Coamp Stoneman would be one that we'd always remember, we risked life and limb once more on a little thing called an Obstacle Course. From the appearance of this nightmare, it must have been a Japanese donation to the Allied war effort.

On the 15th of May we bid fond farewell to Camp Stoneman and began the "March of Death". This little hike from camp to the local ferry is something that will be remembered by the Squadron when all else has been forgotten. .

And so the Fightin' 306th took its last feel of the good old U. S. soil, and with the band playing "Pistol Packin' Mama", and the four signs the Burma Shave agent who had been drafted the day before and hung over our heads:

"WE FED YOU"

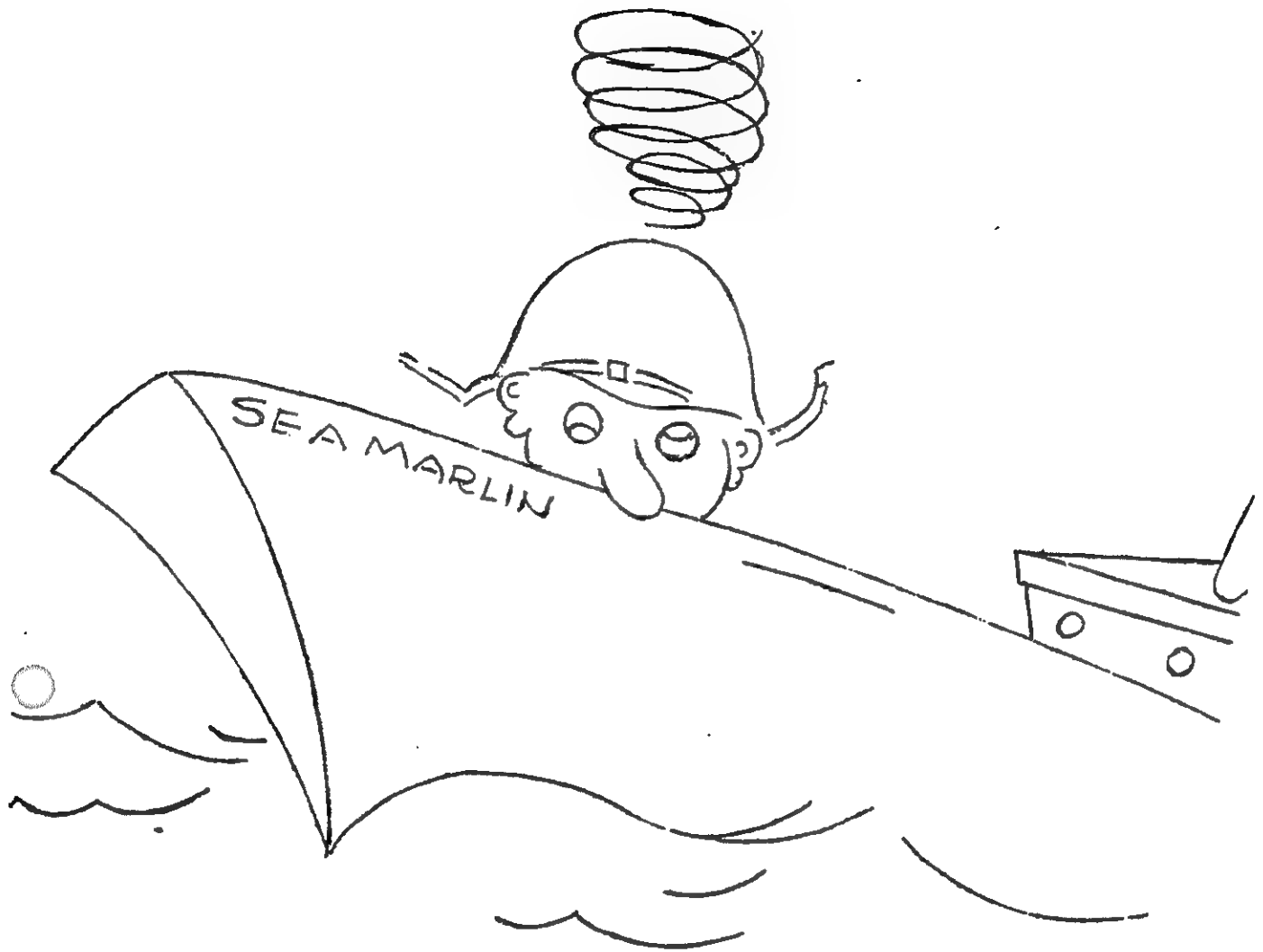
"WE EQUIPPED YOU"

"WE TRAINED YOU"

"NOW IT'S UP TO YOU"

We bid fond farewell to the U. S.....

• SEA VOYAGE •



15 MAY 1944

TO

12 JUNE 1944

MILNE BAY; BUNA; ORO BAY; LAE.

Members of the 306th had long been acquainted with army life on land and now were faced with the life of the army on the high seas. On entering our pier we were led into a large building and sat on our equipment and began asking ourselves questions. We had all heard stories about the "gang plank" knees and wondered just what it was like to go up the proverbial gang plank. Before we had much time to thrash this and other problems out in our minds, we found ourselves on the way up the gangplank of the USAT Catalina.

Before many minutes had passed, we heard the music of a band on the pier playing the latest swing numbers. Suddenly, they started to play "Over There", and the Catalina was under way down the river to San Francisco. The trip down the river was a very pleasant one, and the sights along the river kept us all amused, and for the first time in many hours we had a short spell to relax. Upon reaching the pier in San Francisco we were again herded into a large warehouse affair, where we received coffee and doughnuts from the Red Cross.

Thousands of soldiers were there and we learned that we were all to be on the same boat. After many hours of waiting, we again repeated the stroll up the "gang plank", but this time the smell of the salt water brought us closer to the realization that this time we were going on a long boat trip to God only knew where! We were led down several flights of stairs and ended up in what could be rightfully named a portable "black hole of Calcutta".

After looking around at one another, it was hard to find anyone who was pleased with our new abode. We spent the night of the 15th on the boat in San Francisco harbor looking out over the many lights of the big town. Early the next morning, we were on our way out to sea and finally under the "Great Golden Gate Bridge". The further out we went, the more we strained our eyes to see the land that we had lived in and loved so many years. Our last glimpse of the "Good Old USA" was the Golden Gate Bridge and as it became smaller we began to think of what was to come. After taking our last look at the coastlines of the USA, we found that the scenery from here would be monotonous and for miles upon end all we could see was the waters of the Blue Pacific.

Entertainment on the boat consisted of some recording over the public address system, the news and occasionally a very old moving picture. The routine day consisted of "Muster" at 0500 hours. The main purpose of this was to have all the personnel near the life rafts while the navy looked over the waters in search for enemy submarines that may take advantage of the dark hours to sneak in on our ship. After muster we returned to our quarters and awaited a call from the PA system for: "8829B form your mess line".

Since boarding the ship, for security reasons, we were no longer the 306th Airdrome Squadron, but 8829B. Every announcement made on the PA system was always preceded by: "Now hear this", a saying our Squadron will always associate with this trip. We were served only two meals a day, one in the morning and one at night,

and occasionally one could find members of our organization chewing on the ropes of the ship for a mid-day snack. Most of the entertainment was found by the individual himself in the form of reading, playing card games and the famous American sport, "galloping dominoes".

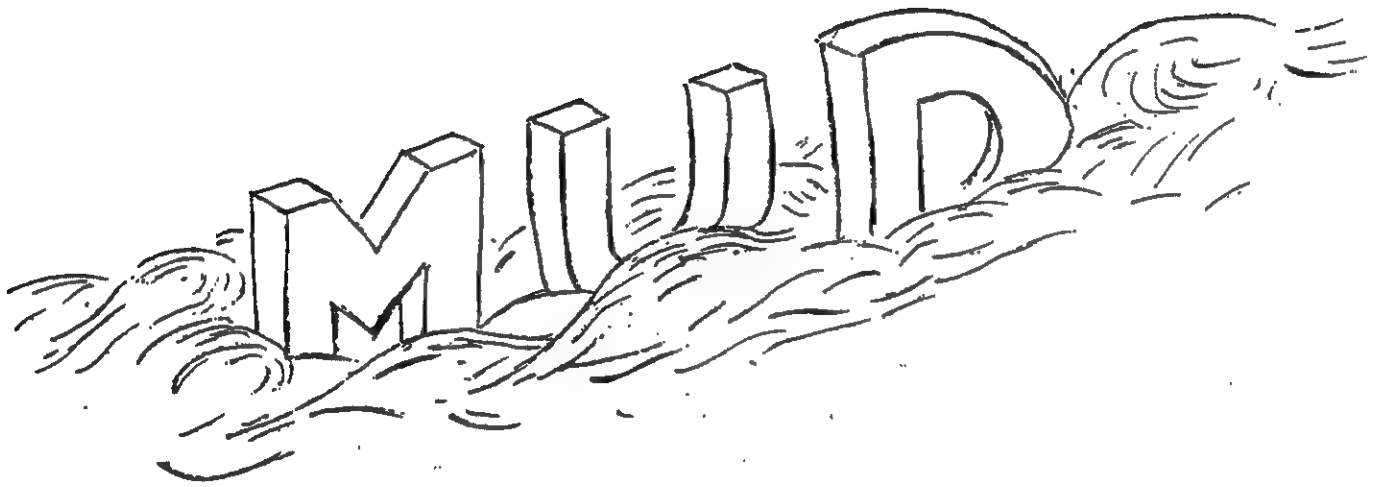
"Bull Sessions" also were very popular and one could find an opponent on any argument he wished to discuss.-- On our eighth day out, we were told that we were approaching the equator and that the Navy boys were going to put on a program for "Father Neptune's Day". Most of us men hadn't heard too much about this sort of ceremony and turned out to see what the Navy had in store for us. The main deck was crowded with GI's hanging from every conceivable spot on the boat to see the ceremony. All Army officers and members of the ship's complement that had never been across the equator were called into the lime-light. For once in our Army careers, we saw the officers take it on the chin, and the EM applauded heartily. The Navy boys dressed in costumes of the days of the Buccaneers and proceeded to give the officers an awful soaking with a hose and oily rags. Many of the officers were given an Indian haircut amidst cheers from the bow to the stern. But the cheering was brought to a quick halt when the Navy boys turned their hoses on the crowd and everyone nearby got a good soaking. After the ceremonies, each man on the ship was given a certificate saying that he had been across the equator and was acquainted with the mysteries of the deep. The Father Neptune's Day ceremonies were something the members of the 306th will long remember, and some day will relate them to their little twelve pointers. Members of the Boards of Education would be well pleased to know that no member of the 306th was found searching the waters for the "Long Black Line".

After two weeks of sailing, one could readily see that most of the men were becoming very tan from the sun, many were almost black.-- Next, the much talked of international date line was to be crossed and the problem of losing or gaining a day was very much in the conversation. Much good American "cabbage" changed hands on this question. Many of the men are still looking for the Sunday we lost out at sea! After passing the international date line, the one question uppermost in the minds of the men was, "When do we hit land"? The many days of sailing with just miles of blue water for scenery made us all the more anxious. Then one day word passed around like "wild-fire" that land had been sighted and although many were skeptical, the decks were crowded with many neck stretchers.

Finally, it was confirmed by the PA system, and on the port mid-ship one could see a lot of pointing fingers in the direction of the far-off horizon. Yes, land had been sighted! At first it looked like a large, dark cloud coming up beyond the horizon, but later it was found to be the mountains of the Owen Stanley range in New Guinea.

As we came closer, we found that the color of the land we had spotted now became a very light green and above the jungles of green, large masses of steam evaporating, which made this new land more of a mystery to us newcomers to a land we had heard so little about. Again, many questions arose in our minds, and it concerned mostly: "What is New Guinea like?" "Yes, what is this New Guinea like?".....

° FINSCHAFEN
NEW GUINEA



12 JUNE 1944
TO

6 JULY 1944.

The Sea Marlin dropped anchor at Milne Bay on June 2nd. It was our first glimpse of New Guinea and, from the boat, it was an impressive sight. The weather was bad; raining and misty most of the three days in the harbor. Our next stop was Oro Bay. 800 men disembarked, mostly Infantry and Medical Corps replacements. After two days at Oro Bay, the Sea Marlin weighed anchor again and the trip continued up the coast to Lae and Buna. Our destination was Finschafen. On June 10th, the Marlin dropped anchor and, amid the confusion, the men were eager to set foot on land again.

The 306th disembarked on June 12th and "Finch" was to be our home for 24 days. This was the first test for the "rookies" of the Fightin' 306th. Pup tents were used the first two nights but the overseas training received in the States on how to pitch a pup tent didn't seem to cope with the situation. Twelve-man tents were finally erected but the mud and rain didn't add to the comforts of overseas life. The job of unloading the 306th equipment was completed in four days and the squadron area with hundreds of crates and boxes piled high seemed to have the appearance of a supply depot. It was a matter of weeks before the equipment was to be used at a forward air base.

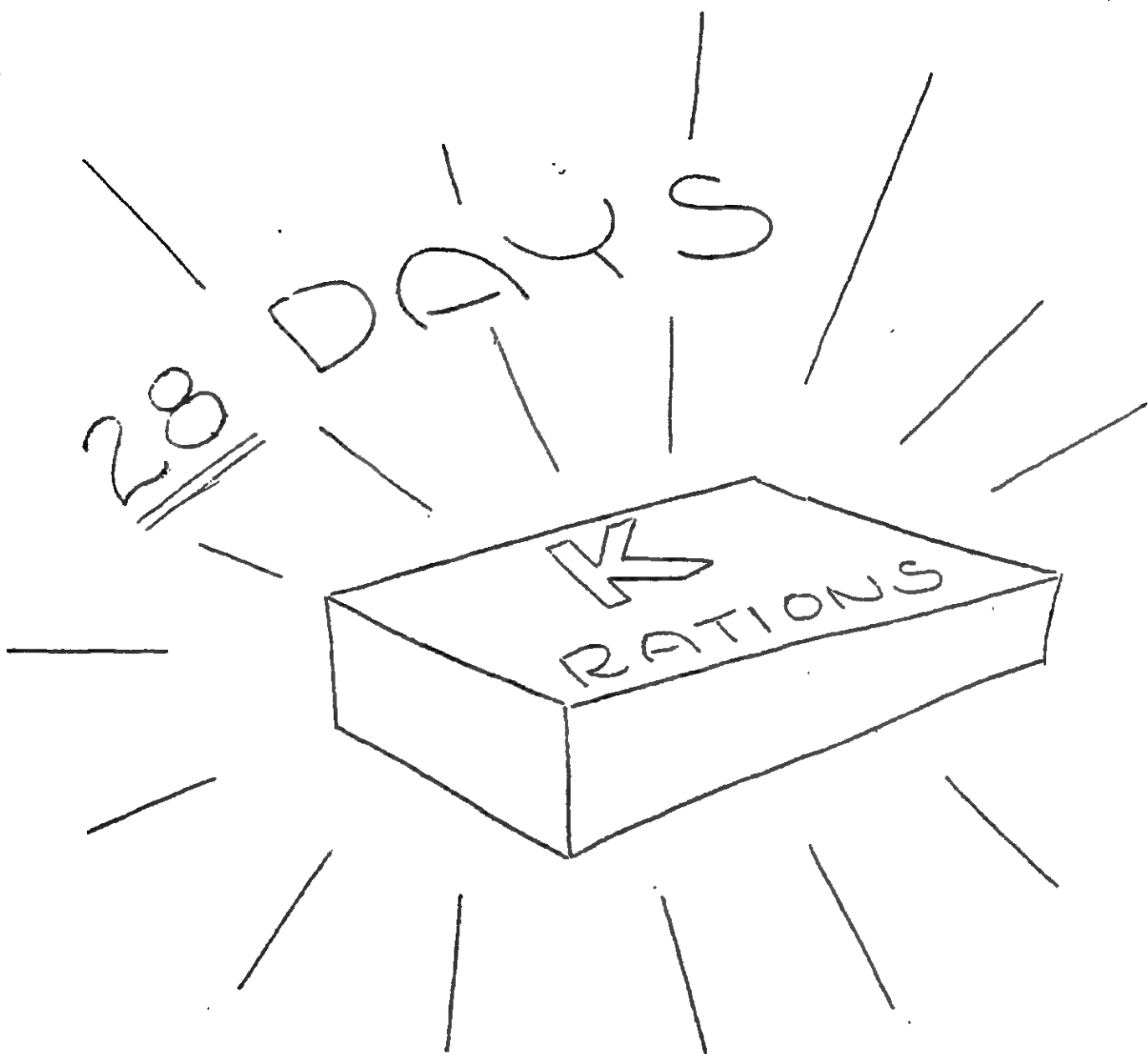
Formations were held every morning, at which time men were selected for various construction jobs in camp; digging latrines, garbage pits, etc. Hard labor, which we weren't accustomed to, made many bones ache but it was toughening us up for the big job ahead. Of course, there was the brighter side - - many an afternoon would find the "playboys" of the 306th at the beautiful beach basking in the sun or enjoying a swim in the ocean. Movies were shown at night but the trek through the jungle to attend a movie seemed to be more of a night patrol.

On July 4th, the men were paid in Australian currency and it was our first experience with foreign money. Pence, shillings, florins and pounds were strange to us and the "Aussie" souvenir dealers had a field day with the "bloody Yanks". ("Wanna look at some native pictures, Mac?") Trading was also done with the natives for sea shells and trinkets. Bargaining brought many humorous incidents.

Almost three weeks passed before movement orders were received. The rumors started to fly. On July 7th, at the break of dawn, the camp was torn down during one of the worst rains experienced at "Finch". It was a depressing sight as the men, soaked to the skin and knee deep in mud, boarded the trucks and were off to dock number five.

Loaded down with field pack, duffel bag, carbine, etc., we stumbled up the gang plank of the USS Frank H. Dodd. Our destination was an advanced base which was in the process of invasion at the time we embarked. The open sea was before us.....

U.S.S. FRANK H. DODD.



At Finschafen on the 3rd of July, 1944 special orders were received for the movement of the outfit closer to the front. During the 4th, 5th and 6th of July we loaded the boat with equipment, etc. and on the morning of the 7th we embarked in the midst of a driving rain. It was quite an ordeal carrying a rifle, duffel bag and full field pack and trying to balance ourselves while climbing up the gangplank. Once aboard, it was every man for himself to find quarters for a Liberty ship is not equipped for transporting hundreds of passengers. Some of the men went down into two holds that were open for traffic, and one in particular, Lohrey almost broke his neck when he reached for a step that wasn't there. After that, every man who went down threw his bag and rifle into the hold and then scampered down unhindered. After an hour or so, quite a few came topside because there was no circulation of air in the holds and the smell of wet clothing, mixed with that of sweat was terrific. Those who stayed topside immediately prepared to erect some sort of shelter to keep themselves and equipment dry. Ponchos and shelter halves were strung up everywhere and every nook and cranny that would shield a man was utilized. Equipment of all kinds ranging from jeeps to trucks of all sizes was chained topside and some men made their home under the vehicles.

We cruised for three days and at the end of the third day we dropped anchor at Hollandia Bay to await further orders. During this time a field kitchen was hastily set up and the menu changed from cold "K" rations to warm "C" rations. There were a couple of other outfits on board with us and therefore a chow line to sweat out. The kitchen consisted of a canvas strung between Hold 3 and Hold 4, two stoves and four or five pots. In order to get to chow, an obstacle course had to be run and many a bruised knee and shin was the result of tripping over a chain or rope. The same hop, skip and jump procedure applied when one had to get to the "over the side" latrines that were located aft.

Life aboard ship was consistently dull and sluggish. We did the same things as in our past voyages; card playing, reading and batting the breeze. Those lowly, menial jobs of K.P. and guard duty were performed as usual. At sundown, blackout regulations were adhered to rigidly and those who didn't like to hit the sack early gathered in small groups to swap stories, tell jokes and sing familiar tunes.

Days passed slowly in Hollandia Bay and on several occasions some of the members of the outfit were allowed to go ashore at Hollandia and bring back Jap souvenirs. Chow turned from bad to worse as the monotony of "C" rations became unbearable. Many nocturnal trips by raiding parties into the deeper holds of the ship brought excellent food results. Those "midnight requisitions" generally consisted of "Ten in One" rations, a rare delicacy in comparison to "C" and "K" rations. We were a hungry lot on this trip and everything possible was done by our officers to make us comfortable and happy. They even shut off steam that we used to make hot coffee at night just because they thought coffee would keep us awake at night. At night when the tropical yellow moon would shine down on us on deck, romantic thoughts entered our minds only to vanish when we pictured the moon a big mound of cheese and then we got twice as hungry.

After the first week of anchorage in the bay, the Captain of the ship allowed us to go swimming over the side. This was a pleasure for the heat during the afternoons was terrific. Many delightful afternoons were passed away swimming in the cool, green waters of the bay.

During the subsequent days that followed, morale among the men hit low bottom. How we longed for a good hot meal and a fresh water shower! Something had to be done. Al Scialfo and Riddell did the trick by getting up an all G.I. show with performers picked from the various outfits on board. It was a great show, lasting over three hours. Some of the songs and jokes were on the smutty side and Scarp was right in there pitchin'. Hatch No. 4 served as the stage and Al Scialfo was EMCEE. His hilarious "WAC" act was one of the highlights of the show. And who will ever forget those songs of Flannery and MacDonald?

On July 31st orders to proceed to Noemfoor Island came through, and on August 2nd we pulled into Noemfoor.

NOEMFOOR ISLAND.
NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES



4 AUGUST 1944

TO

25 DECEMBER 1944

As the first rays of sunshine cast their spell over a calm and serene setting, we of the Fightin' 306th from the decks of our palatial cruiser, the Frank H. Dodd, caught our first sight of beautiful Noemfoor. Noemfoor, with its tall, stately palm trees, was truly Hollywood's Pacific Isle of Romance. As we lined up across the deck with our duffel bags, helmets and carbines; had our shipping numbers checked off and strode down the Jacob's ladder into waiting amphibians for our trip to shore, all of us were thinking of our homes and loved ones we had so recently left... This was a far cry from the towns with their crowds and girls that we were used to. But one thing certain, we were going to make the best of it. After the amphibians had completed their shuttles to and from the ship and shore and the personnel were all ashore, we set about to wait for the trucks that were to take us to our bivouac area. We had debarked at the end of Kamari Strip, which was the Australian's base on the isle. Most of us went over to watch the P-40's that they flew come in, and to look at the English Bee fighters. We thought that their pilots were a crazy lot, but were soon to find out differently. After much delay and the usual SNAFU that concerns Army movements, our trucks arrived and we were taken to our home away from home.

The first sight of the trees, bamboo, grass and the vines that inhabited the place made us all want to return to the boat, but it wasn't long until we had our pup tents up and were eating our usual fare of "C" rations. Then, as the sun started to sink, guards were chosen and given their posts on this night, one of our most hectic overseas. There were supposed to be five thousand Japs cornered by the 158th Infantry at the tip of the isle, and were their next door neighbors, so to speak; actually a distance of four miles. Then as darkness fell; carbine shots along with the sputtering of Tommy guns and shouts for the corporal of the guard punctured the stillness of the night. Guards, their imagination keyed to its best, visualized Japs crawling toward them and would think nothing of firing a clip at the supposed spot. Later on though, things quieted down, as things will, and it was then that the "Boom, Boom, Boom" of the ack-ack told us of a red alert. Most of us sat around not knowing what to do, but as tracers filled the air in a gigantic fireworks display, and the screaming of the big shells and shrapnel, all hugged the earth and tried to bury ourselves. To us it was like a preview of the end of the world, but the actual damage was a bomb in an Aussie gasoline dump, and two other bombs in obscure places causing no damage.

The next day saw us cleaning our area and pitching twelve-men tents, building a mess hall and the usual work of setting up a camp. When we first arrived, our strip, Kornasoren, had a few squadrons of P-47's and work was light. They were shuttle-bombing Morotai and the Halmahera's, but around the first of August, those places were no longer active enemy bases, and it was then that the 417th Bombardment Group of A-20's came. With them came the end of our leisure hours, as their ground crews were fiddling around somewhere on a boat, and we had to take over the servicing of them as well as a fighter group. Noemfoor, from the time we landed until early October, was the most forward base of the Allies in that part of the Pacific, and missions from there were daily. By this time, our Engineers, along with the Aussies, had shoveled, scraped and leveled out some five miles of runway, a crash strip and over a hundred revetments. Noemfoor was rapidly developing into a large base...Most of us often watched

the A-20's take-off four abreast down the runway and land not more than ten feet apart. They were, without a doubt, the craziest bunch of pilots there ever were; many was the time when they came back with the foliage of trees in the muzzles of their nose guns, and dents in their wings from flying too close to enemy ships.

It was at Noemfoor we first met our allies, the Aussies, the "old Chappie" characters with the baggy pants and the Tom Mix hats. We may not have been the forerunners of the "good will policy" to Australia, but we certainly kept up momentum in the drive. There wasn't anything that the Aussies didn't have or could make that we didn't buy, and as they'd twist that knife in our backs, we'd smile and say, "Thanks, Matey". One thing the Aussies did have though, was beer, that potent beverage made ours taste like water; and between that and our own concoction of "jungle juice" many managed to keep their spirits up, up almost to the point of soaring.

Every night we were honored with a visit from a Nip airman who was affectionately called "Charley", blank blank Charley; bless his soul. Nightly we were awakened from our slumbers and dreams by the three shots that signified a red alert, and we would make choice remarks about Charley and his ancestors. A few got up during these visits, but most of us just rolled over until one night, the ninth of October, something happened that changed our outlook on certain things. It started with the usual red alert, but the roar of a plane in a dive, and the scream and explosion of a bomb on the edge of the area of an outfit next to us had us all saying our prayers. Someone had thoughtlessly left their mess hall light on and that was his target. It exploded about thirty feet from the mess hall and only the partial explosion saved the lives of many men in that outfit. Who said those Japs were poor marksmen? The following morning the clang of picks and the scrapes of shovels were a common sight. Fox-holes were in the making. One fellow even went to supply at three in the morning for tools to start his. Self preservation is really a wonderful thing. Braised shins and elbows, scraped faces and black eyes were the tell-tale marks of human bulldozing.

During the month of August, Bob Hope, Francis Langford and show paid the isle a visit. That was our first rouch of America again, and we enjoyed it very much. Hope is a card, but Francis, AHHHHH! The love life of the Squandron Romeos was a bit on the inactive side here as the inhabitants started with a dark shade of black and went to blacker, they also emitted an aroma all their own and they can keep it. We taught some of them a few words of English and learned a few of theirs, we also traded our clothes and cigarettes for Jap money and other knick-knacks. The average soldier as a trader, to put it bluntly, stinks. He would trade the shirt on his back for a worthless, useless article and then toss it in some corner and forget about it. They were a happy lot though, and quick to catch on. Often you'd see them hitch-hiking on the roads, a whole village of them from Grandma to Junior. The men with their bolos and the women with possibly everything they owned on their heads, backs or both.

Leaving Noemfoor had its happy part besides packing all of the equipment and tearing things down. The Philippines were supposed to be a pretty place. Then too, work would be practically nil, and details of various jobs were falling thick and fast. We were to travel this time by LST, and after several dry runs, one fine day

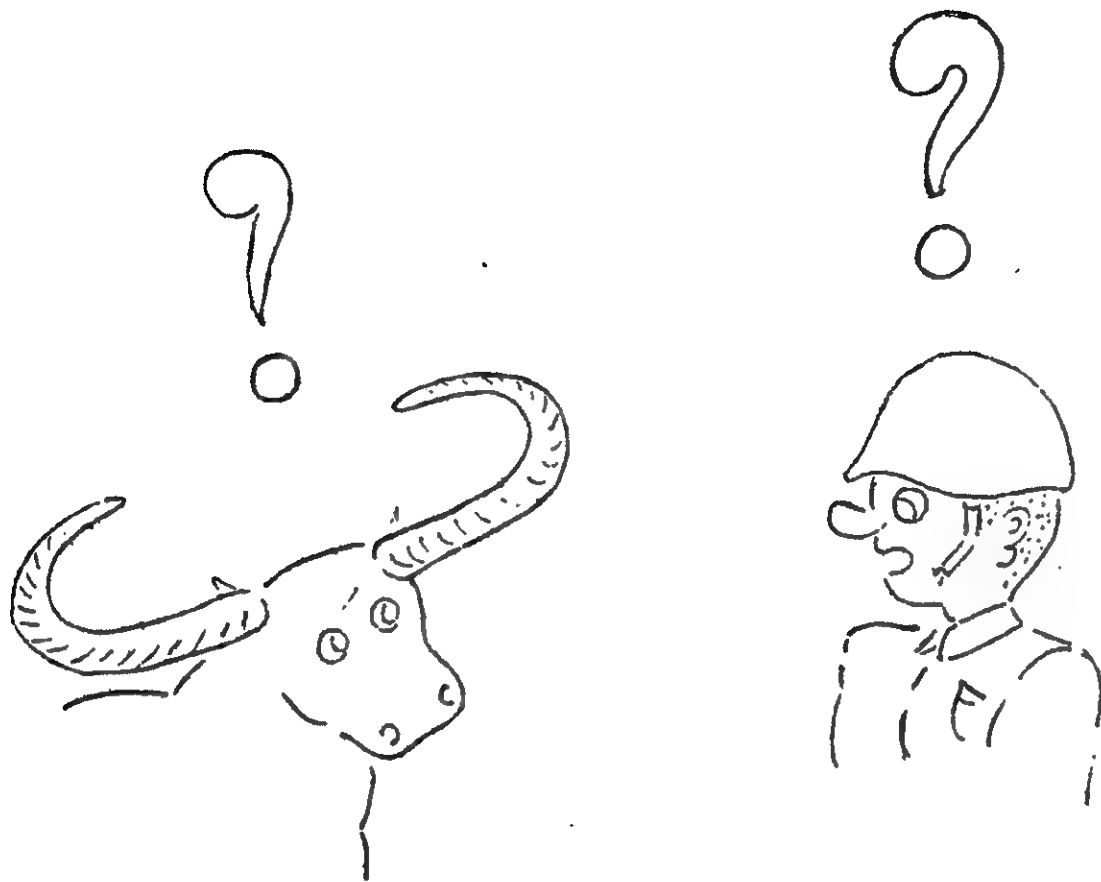
the trucks pulled out to begin loading. All army moves are made in the rain, and this was no exception. It is a general belief that personnel in higher headquarters consult weather maps and plan accordingly; that is about the only thing they do right. The day after the trucks left the personnel tore down what was once their homes and convoyed to the boat to join the others, then there was the usual scramble for bunks and the placing of cots anyplace large enough to hold one. Men slept in trucks, under trucks and on top of trucks. An army may travel on its stomach but bed is where you make it.

On December 26th we left the island of Noemfoor; left to wait about a mile offshore and wait for the rest of the convoy. We made several trips around the island testing the guns aboard the ship, and finally on the 31st, we set our course for Luzon. At first, our convoy was small, but five days out we rendezvoused with the task force, by the looks, every other ship in the Navy. If there were ever any doubts as to the completion of our mission, they were soon dispelled and the size of the convoy staggered one - all sizes, shapes and types were there, so we then relaxed and made the best of the trip. Red alerts were nightly affairs but unlike being on land, we all had to get topside as the Navy battened all doors and dogged all the hatches. Several of the men acted as ammunition passers and gun helpers while on board, but most of us spent our time in the pleasant pastime of cards or the "sack".

As we neared Leyte we were joined by aircraft carriers and the curtain of planes about us was a lovely sight. We all thought we would anchor in Leyte, but instead we cut past the lower end and sailed through the straits past Negros and Panay, around Mindoro and into the China Sea. Many of the islands were still occupied by the Japs and we sailed as close as ten miles to them, but no attempt was made to stop us. The China Sea is about the roughest body of water any of us hope to see. The boat dipped, rocked and most of us were waiting for it to roll on over. Even the Captain was a bit worried and that was enough for us.

On January 11th, we anchored in Lingayen Gulf and the excitement of that day will be long remembered. Every ship there set up their own smoke screen in preparation for a raid and at four that afternoon their expectations were rewarded. Four Jap Zeros came over the mountains and proceeded to scare hell out of all of us. Everything afloat with guns cut loose on them and the sky was a blanket of flak. They kept out of range though and soon flew away. As twilight approached, we were alerted and all gunners were told to watch for floating debris, as the Japs had been known to make human bombs of themselves. Throughout the night searchlights blinked on and off. On the 16th of January we moved shoreward to dock, but the waves were from six to twelve feet high and the operation a difficult one. The Navy worked all night tying up so we wouldn't break loose as we had on the previous attempt. Finally things were shipshape and our trucks began to roll onto the land.

• PHILIPPINES •



11 JANUARY 1945

To

15 OCTOBER 1945

With all men and equipment unloaded, we set out for our new bivouac area. First the equipment was moved to the newly captured Lingayen Air Strip and the Engineering section went to work. The rest of the squadron moved along the beach in deep sand, then onto a paved road for about a mile and a half from the beach. We settled in a space about 30 yards square and quickly set up our pup tents. Then we started bargaining with the hundreds of Filipinos who brought chickens, eggs, straw mats, hats and shoes to trade for our food or any clothing they could get. They flocked around us so that it was difficult to even open a can of C-Rations.

To our surprise the Flips spoke English, though very brokenly, but in spite of it, and together with the sign language, many shrewd bargains were taking place. "Hello, Joe" was their favorite greeting. The mess hall was the first building to be constructed. It was put together of bamboo which grew abundantly in the province of Pangasinan. The dispensary was next; then supply and the orderly room. Six-men tents were put up and in a short time we had put up a complete tent city that was the best for miles around. Improvements were made from day to day: water tanks, showers and pipelines were laid down the company street to fill our needs.

We constructed our own Service Club and it proved to be a swell place to spend our time. Booths, a stage, dance floor and a bar were all included. Several dances were held and some Squadron shows. Liquor was served on a chit card basis. We really enjoyed our time there.

Meanwhile, the Engineering section built up their area on the strip and Operations and Communications did likewise. Ordnance built themselves a fine place to operate from and the Medical Department constructed a very complete Line Dispensary.

Many planes arrived at this first place to be in operation on Luzon, and we became busy as bees repairing airplanes, servicing, loading bombs, arming guns, repairing radios and setting up field lighting for night operations.

The Crash and Alert crews came in for quite a few harrowing experiences. A B-25, after returning from a mission, landed with two bombs in its racks. One of them dropped out and blew a six by ten foot hole in the runway. Shrapnel showered the Engineering area, cutting some of the men. The plane immediately caught fire and our crash crew was fighting the blaze when they learned of another bomb inside and hastily withdrew. Not long after the second bomb exploded, completing the destruction of the plane. A P-38 made a bad landing, crashing into two other planes. One of the crew members fighting this fire was grazed by 50 caliber ammunition in the guns.

The Lingayen Air Strip became the busiest single air strip in World War II. We can all agree to a man on that, and we did an outstanding job. Working under the most trying conditions; heat, dust, and rain. This is all well etched in our minds. The strip was bombed once when a lone Jap raider sneaked in. Our only casualty was a pet dog by the name of "Red Dog". Most of us remember him.

We underwent many alerts and lost a lot of sleep. Many of them proved to be dry runs and a few of the braver lads slept through them. We can recall too how alerts would be given while we were enjoying a movie and it had to be shut down for an hour or two. The night that we received word that 800 Japs were on their way to attack us put us quickly on the alert with guards posted all around our area and a perimeter hastily set up. It did not materialize but we were ready. What went on in our minds at that time would be well worth listening to. There was a great deal of kidding over that as to what so-and-so would do if they were attacked. All heroes, no doubt.... Remember, too, when a helmet and carbine were standard equipment to carry along to the shows outside the area or to go into Binmaley. Then our first trips to Manila; the men always carried a small arsenal, and often the truck was within firing distance of the enemy. Again we had brave men who ventured forth without so much as a match to give the Japs a hot foot.

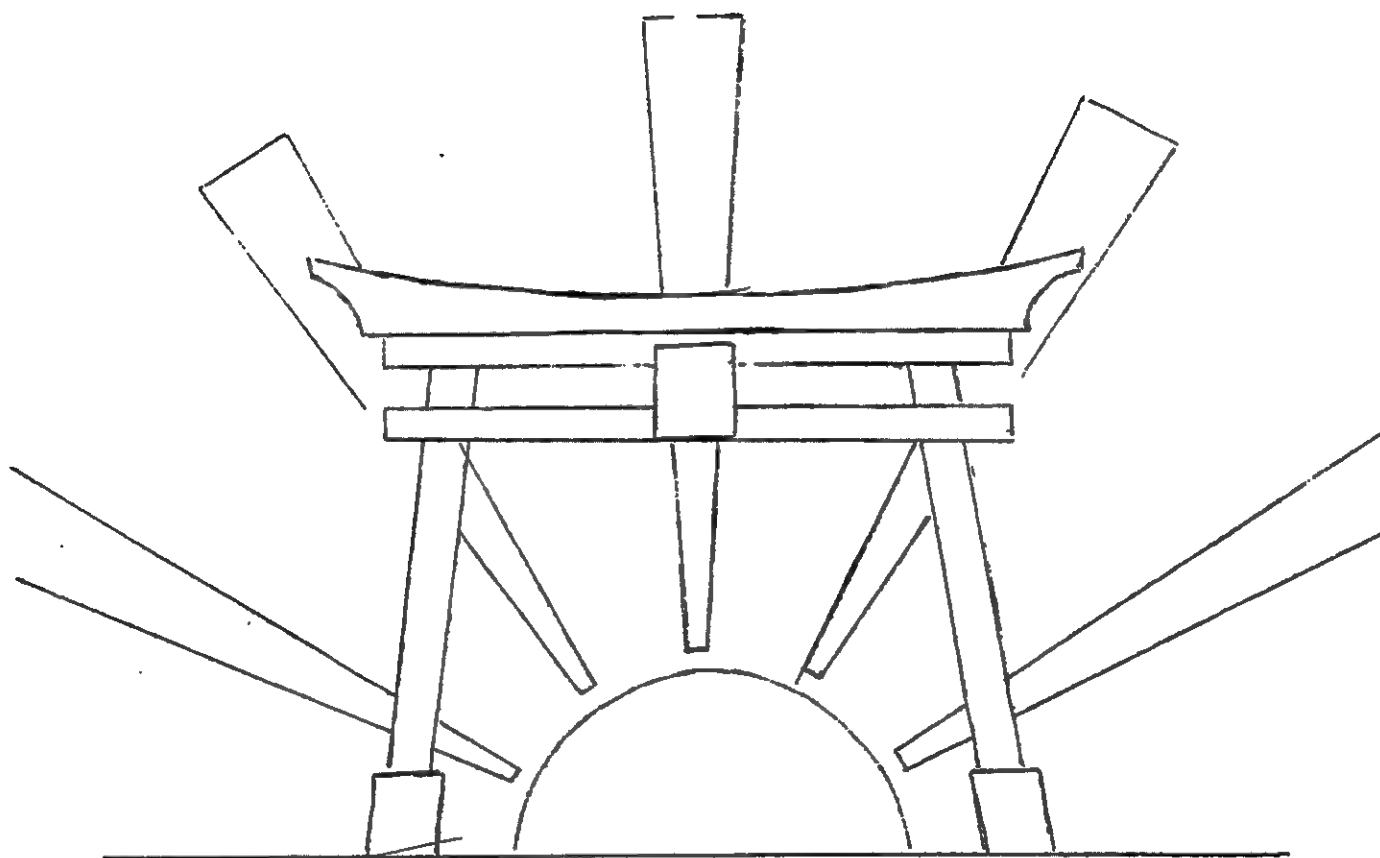
Most of us visited the ancient town of Manila. We went up in weekly trips for a while. Being badly bombed and shelled, there wasn't much to be seen, but we liked what we saw. Trips to Baguio were carried out a few times, but they weren't too popular. One favorite short trip was to San Carlos. There a distillery put out a wicked beverage that we acquired a taste for. We've often wondered - - it had a slight flavor of hundred octane gasoline, and we used to miss plenty of it from our gas dumps.....

Our dances there at the Service Club were something to look forward to. Our first one was planned for weeks in advance. But we overlooked one slight detail. It seems that the old Spanish custom of escorting women still persisted. When our ladies came, they were convoyed by mother, father, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, a cousin or two and a few friends who came along for the party. If we were fortunate enough to elbow our way into the club, we were met by a threatening array of relatives who frowned upon our dancing with the belle of the gang without full references and a letter from the Chaplain, stating out intentions. Thereafter, we invited only girls who were used to American ideas. Space doesn't permit us to go into further detail about our relations with the Filipinos, if the old man feels up to it, "It is up to you, YOU are the one".....

Then toward the end of our stay, we were broken up in particles. First, the over-age fellows pulled out, shortly followed by the seventy and eighty pointers. We were given a lot of men from other organizations but we could begin to see the beginning of the end.

We've come a long way from Moses Lake and Geiger Field and we can look back now over our experiences. The hardships, sickness, bad food and weather conditions were all barriers to be beaten, and we beat them. And now as we're expected to go to Japan, we wonder what other hardships confront us. New Guines will get the vote as the best place to be from. The Philippines next, but Japan is the big mystery now.....

• JAPAN •



15 OCTOBER 1945
To

On October 14, 1945, after the usual SNAFU preparations, we boarded LST 1096 for one of our routine trips. We were a bit crowded--we then numbered 351 and the bunk capacity of the ship was approximately 180. After the usual scramble for the available bunks, the rest of us that weren't lucky enough to get one started the old stuff of setting up a cot in any available corner.

Finally, at 1600 on the 15th, we weighed anchor and sailed out with the rest of the convoy toward that little island that had been giving us all the trouble. The trip was mostly uneventful, except for several rough stretches when a bunch of us hung over the rails a great deal of the time. Remember that night it was rougher than heck and we had spaghetti?.. Each day as we travelled, the weather became colder and colder and those of us on deck were chattering our teeth pretty audibly. Then we sighted land. First of all, we could see factory flues in the distance and then, as we came closer, the large factories by them. They told us that it was Wakayama.

On October 23 we 'hit' the beach and started to unload. We worked all of that night and finished the next morning about 1130. They told us we were going to Osaka or thereabouts. Since the vehicles were all off about 0800, the motor convoy left at 1000. We came through a mountain road edged with pines and lined with miniature streams. It made some of "Hill-Billies" think of the place we left behind, and we all agreed that it was the most beautiful place we had seen over here. Tiny tots along the road greeted us with the "V" sign, and except for the different types of architecture and the pines it might have been the Philippines. Instead of the usual "Lo, Joe", the greeting was "Ohio" or "Good Morning". Cigarettes, gum, sugar and chocolate were still in demand, and a few of us made a deal or two in spite of the heavy penalties involved. After a high percentage of flats and engine trouble, we finally made it to Osaka, and from there to Itami, to the Kanai Wool Card Co., Ltd.

Meanwhile, the rest of us boarded the "Toonerville Trolley", a train that runs between Wakayama and Osaka. We stopped every fifty feet to clear with the dispatchers. Most of the Japs were indifferent to us; the former soldiers ignored us, as did the adults; but the kids yelled at us and seemed excited as kids the world over do. At Osaka we got off, got on trucks and came out to the camp.

The first few nights we bunked up in one of the sections of the factory. Very different from our previous "first nighters" under pup tents. Toward morning it got colder'n heck, but most of us managed to sleep. The next day we looked over the apartments in the neighborhood, found one to our liking, sprayed it with gasoline and DDT, then moved in the next morning. Six of us were assigned to each room, and very comfortable they were, too,--almost State-side, with the exception of the lack of heating facilities.

Along about this time we discovered Jap beer. What a tasty beverage that was! -- and it flowed like water. After being rationed beer for eighteen months, a case a month, just twenty-four tiny cans; and then suddenly be able to purchase cases of twenty-four quart bottles of real stuff, AHHHH, it was wonderful. It sold for ¥20 or

\$1.30 too, a great help to flat billfolds. Then too, the chow began picking up; fresh meats, potatoes and other foods well prepared picked up our morale like mad.

Of course, everything can't be perfect and this place was no exception. These Japs certainly enjoy making it hard for themselves--those slit trenches with running water were rough. ("Bombsights are available in the next room, men.") They were simply porcelain boxes sunk to floor level.

Trips to town began to be the thing. Beer halls, geisha houses, and stores, were all visited. Stores were pretty barren, but most of us managed to find something to take along home with us. For a change, the price of everything was still reasonable, and our pay was high enough to handle most purchases. Many tall tales were told in the apartments after an evening or afternoon in town, and many small name cards with Japanese printing were displayed. Those were indeed the days.

Work came in for some of our time, however. Details weren't as many as usual--Japs were hired to do a lot of the tasks--but K.P. and guard duty still claimed their share of men. Our strip, the Itami Airdrome, was in good shape when we arrived, and so there wasn't too much repair work to be completed. Jap planes - Zekes, Bettys, Tonys - were left intact, and for many of us, afforded our first sight of them all in one piece. Our own planes - P-51s, P-38s, B-24s, B-25s, C-47s and C-46s - kept our Engineering gang busy. Other sections working on the line were Communications, Medics, Crash Crew, Fire Crew, Refueling and the Tower gang.

Around the first of November, a945, some of our officers and men took off for home, and then we really began to feel the end coming on. They might administer injections of new men, but after the fifties and sixties go back to the States, the old 306th will be only a memory. About that time there arrived some very handy and timely ratings. After all, another stripe with accompanying pay raise, never comes amiss.

Now this history must "go to press" and the rest will have to be related by the old man. In saying goodbye, we'd like to go on the record as saying that the 306th was, in our opinion, the best outfit of the best Army in the world, and who can doubt our word?

Following is the roster of the old outfit. You'll find there the old man and all his buddies. There's sure to be an old pal of his around close, so to hear the real story of us, just get them together, and a few beers, and listen to the yarns they can spin.....

SPORTS!



WOTTA A BUM!

Moses Lake: It may not have been the appropriate time nor place for spring training, but as it happened, it was at Moses Lake. Those of us who were there knew, and those who weren't are just that much better off. So we'll say no more about the accommodations for the "club". We played morning, noon and twilight, and had some fine contests. There weren't enough men in the outfit to have more than three softball teams so the "programs" from day to day contained the same names. "Pop" Snead was on his way out, and was stuck in our "league" that summer as head umpire. He didn't know a baseball bat from a bat with wings. It was either chasing tumbling weeds or playing softball, so we chose the latter.

Geiger Field: What was a detail when a place like Cheney was waiting? Cheney was the town where the Eastern College of Washington was located and also the birthplace of our "Dromers". We had the entire athletic set-up to ourselves as school was closed for the summer. The basketball court and the swimming pool were the main centers of attraction. We also had a football field, a 440 track. The tennis courts were available but were used by only a few of the over-energetic type due to the hot Washington sun. There was a basketball league started at the college and the newly founded "Dromers" entered a club. We played about three nights a week on a beautiful floor and had some fine games. The team was in a rough stage and there was plenty of room for improvement. The "Dromers" played hard and fought harder and came out with just a fair record. The pool was really the place and all the aquatic personnel made fine use of it. Probably all of us remember the life raft that normally held about four people and then we'd get ten or twelve on it, and then - well, that's all brother! "Boozer, the Braiser", (a general purpose bomb if we ever saw one) would upset the apple cart with an explosion nearby!

Peterson Field: When we reached Peterson we were more of an outfit and you could feel the pull of unity among the fellows. The gym afforded us with many hours of practice and some of the "Dromers" kinks were ironed out. Robert "Zach" Harper managed the team and put out a fair club, considering that the talent came from the East, West, Midwest and any other section that used a hoop and a ball. Each man had a different style of ball but finally were all blended into one. We didn't click with the gym manager, but he was the one who suffered in the end. (Still have those sneakers, men?) We had a few squabbles about the officiating, but what is a team without spirit? When "Dromers" started to break out into the winning columns, the fans started turning out regularly. Chet and Ruth, Jerry and Joe, and even our boy "Tuffy" Dolan were common sights on the sidelines. They were usually in a stage just bordering hysterics if the score was anywhere near threatening. Our best game was turned in against Colorado College V-12 team, the night we lost in the closing minutes by one point. The score didn't read the pleasant way, but it was a morale victory considering the competition. The most competition any of us had encountered previously was high school ball. Touch football also moved into the sports parade at Peterson's "Malted Milk Stadium". There were five intra squadron teams and many near blood games entertained the packed house of five or six spectators.

The officers had their team and we can recall many times when no punches were pulled and many were pushed! The contests were close and hard fought all the way. As we look back sometimes, we imagine we should thank the Lord that we're able to look back! The "club house" was directly across the road and usually the losers had to buy the malteds. Many a dime was pulled out of "Big Dick's" pocket to quench the thirst of the opposition.

Pueblo: The name of the 306th was held up in town by the lovers of the opposite sex (or the brew) and on the base by the sports lovers. The "Dromers" literally reigned as kings of the hardwood here. We had the same combination and the same members of the squad. The nicknames alone were enough to make us known on the base. With "Popsey" Hale, "Tiger" Howick, "Zack" Harper, "Moe" Merhige, "Toneoff" Vsetula, "HOOSIER" Brett, "Snapper" Morra, and "Junior" Davis: we kept the fans guessing. We were now in a fast enough league to warrant uniforms, so uniforms it was. We won't venture to quote the winning and losing percentage, but it is a fact that we lost only one base league game. We copped the Base Championship and were awarded gold miniature basketballs by the Commanding Officer of the base, by defeating a Negro outfit the first two games out of a series of three. We seemed to get along better here with the officials, although there was many a night when "Tubber" Greenberg thought he'd never be able to blow another whistle. The club was established to such a degree that we honored by such notables as "Hammering Hank" Hunter, "Nipplehead" MacAdams (sober or otherwise). "Kill the Referee" Horner and "What do you want to bet" Dodson. The club outdrew the base team in attendance and received just publicity.

Along with the court activities we had a few pugilists establishing a name for the squadron. Fights weren't too often as "Moon" Mullins, gym director, wasn't a Mike Jacobs, but when there were, we had entries and also victors. Among those who helped some of the fans earn some "lovin' dough" were "Sabu" Mizrahi, "Johnny" Gizler, "Gunner" Lee, "Punchy" Gilmett and "Whitey" Bakeman. When the grass started to thaw out and "My Pal" Ward was ready to bellow orders, hard ball practice began. We had a few candidates out for the squad, but didn't stay long enough for them to show their real stuff, did we "Irv"?

Stoneman: We just about had time to un-pack and then repack the athletic equipment so there wasn't too much doing in the line of sports. In the nine days we were at Stoneman we had intra squadron softball games and, unknown to all of us, it was the beginning of a big thing. The football was booted here and there by a few of the boys, and Harlie "Gimme land, lotsa land" Amburn still failed to break the record for the mile.

USAT Sea Marlin: Not enough room for a ball game or even a game of shuffle board, but the sports parade still carried on. The dice clicked and the cards shuffled, many a pair of pants were worn in spots. Joe "Oh, I'm sitting on an ace" Glatfelter won and lost (no future in that) enough to buy all of Lancaster and try and make it the "Shangri La" he believes it to be. There was also

a little track practice by a few, going from the deck to the kitchen and then back again, but we'll say no more.

Finschafen: "They need another latrine and Semanski is on the whip - "Whoosh - the tent was emptied to the tune of "Three Little Fishes". The ol' swimming hole was the main diversion during the day and brought back memories of "back there" when we were kids. The dock was already built and a row boat served as a raft in the middle of the inlet. The surf admirers had their fling too as Finsch had a piece of ocean front. The twilight volleyball league brought about some fine arguments and something to live for from day to day. If the washing of clothes was a sport, we all would have been in big time. "Lucky" Carroll, "Tony" Pelose and "Jack" Campbell were the yachtmen with their home-made craft. That was the closest any of the fellows got to the threat, "Give me a boat, and I'll go home", as they were almost (unwillingly) well on their way to the high seas.

USS Frank H. Dodd: The layover in Hollandia Bay had the guys goin' nuts with nothing to do. At first, swimming was prohibited due to the uncertainty of the water; it was like the old familiar poster, "It may look clean, BUT?" Finally they gave us the high sign and over we went. The outfit had more Weismullers than one would think and the side of the Dodd looked like Coney Island on the Fourth of July. "Pooks" Dorman, the only fish with some hair and legs, gave the boys something to look at with his high divin' and swimmin' feats.

Noemfoor: Beg, borrow or steal and your desires will be fulfilled. We used all three methods in creating the "Dromers Bowl". Our softball diamond wasn't Yankee Stadium, but it did serve the purpose and will be long talked of. We started an intra squadron league that had the rivalry of the Giants-Dodgers in every game and the crowds of an Army-Navy game every night. Our spring training in Moses Lake came in handy, even if it was a year later, and the department teams of Stoneman became active. The league was comprised of seven teams, representing different departments and groups of guys. "Yank" magazine definitely slipped when they didn't cover any of these contests as they were strictly head-line stuff. "Governor" Leight managed the "Phillies" of the league and had the interest and fire of Durocher. The "Static Chasers", "Elite Studios", "Bomb Busters", "Small Time Operators", "Leight's Elites", "Bars and Stripes", and Howick's "Prop Wash 10" comprised the clubs fighting for first place. We may not have played the same brand as the Big Leagues, but we did have the interest. One twilight game was good for twenty-four hours. At breakfast and dinner, the jabber would be about the game the night before, and at supper the topic would be about the game to be played that night. A few high lights are brought back and probably won't be forgotten until beer stops being passed over bars; "Elite Studios" purchase of "Matt" Matthews, a chucker from "Leight's Elites" for one Milky Way and a Stateside cigar, "Baldy" Benyo signing with the "Prop Wash 10", after failing to report for spring training; Jackie "Satchel Feet" Fisher being voted the rookie of the year; "Junior Radar" Davis holding "Blackie" Farrell at second base; "Lou Boudreau" Acla using the same lineup for the "Bomb Busters" two nights in a row, "Lazy Ace" Maletich playing offensively and defensively in the same half of an inning so he wouldn't have to advance a base; and the "Small Time Operators" having contract trouble with their players.

The major leagues, American Association and the Pacific Coast League will always be in the minds of all the baseball lovers, but only two hundred and fifty fortunate baseball fans will remember the Twilight League in the Dromer's Bowl.

The New York "Dudes" and the Pennsylvania "Miners" let their state loyalty run away with them and arranged a game between the two. The publicity had the resemblance of a world series and the dough floating around looked like a busy day at the stock market. The field was lined and the fans turned out in throngs, but as far as the results go, the "Coal Miners" were entitled to a front seat. Yes, the "Dudes" were defeated and many a mouth had to be closed along with many a pocket-book wide open. The game was well played and a long argument was finally brought to a halt.

Two days before the "Argument of the Alleghenies" a few big guns of baseball visited the neighborhood. In the afternoon, they umpired a game for a Service Squadron and quite a few of the guys went over to see them. Among the headliners were: "Stout" Steve O'Neil, manager of the world champion Detroit Tigers, Johnny Lindell and "Tuck" Steinback, of the New York Yankees, colorful "Beans" Reardon, National League umpire and "Whitey" Lewis, Sports Editor of the "Cleveland Plain Dealer". We asked the boys if they would be able to come over to the "Bowl" and handle the umpiring chorus of the Big Battle, but their schedule was already overcrowded and they weren't able to. The same night they were at the Group Theater and showed the moving picture, "Highlights of the '43 World Series". Imagine seeing a World Series in December, fourteen months late, but at the time it was appreciated as though we were at the ballpark watching the real thing. After the movies, the visitors held a round table discussion and answered any baseball questions the guys had. It was really interesting talking to the men you read about often and have seen in action many times. We learned some real inside baseball, and it made this year's series seem rather close after talking with Steve O'Neil. "Beans" Reardon is one character we'll all remember, he was very witty and made one feel as though you had known him all your life. We learned different facts that newspapers never came out with and with opened mouths listened to some inside locker-room tales. "Beans" invited the boys to look him up when they returned to the states and probably if he is calling any games the Noemfoor Vets are attending, they'll say hello to him.

Binmaley, Luzon: Due to the lack of space near the area, we weren't able to continue the league we had in Noemfoor. It was probably just as well because the rivalry was getting beyond control and the stage of interest. We did have a squadron softball team and made a fine name for the outfit. Behind the superlative chucking of Eddie "Golden Arm" Singleton, the club hung up a record of 54 wins and 7 losses. We dedicated the field to "Pop" Frazee due to his interest in our softball team. Frazee Memorial Diamond was opened with a ceremony of major league caliber. Two squadron teams lined up on the first and third base lines and sang "God Bless America" before game time. The field was lined and umpires were assigned to each base, a new ball was thrown in, and the game was on.

"The Black Ghost" went down under the superior play of the "Unholy Ten" and laughs were more plentiful than base hits. With the season on Luzon now under way, the "Dromers" went to seek their prey. The hitting was more than outdone by the defensive work of the team as the "Murderers Row", consisting of "Voz", "Goof", "Moe" and "Blackie", weren't hitting their weight. The opposition had quite a rough time trying to get hits through Vsetula, Mehall, Acla, Howick, Tures and Harper. The one game that all will remember, especially the ones who paid for it, was the one against the "Tenth Service" for a cool 'ol four hundred pesos (Ten will get you twenty). It hurts to admit that this was one of the seven defeats we suffered during the season. After the game, we all wanted to yell "Rube", as it was learned they threw in a ringer against us, but then it was water under the bridge. We did, however, beat the "Ringer" when he chucked for his own outfit, and thereby regained face but no dough. Our club had the pep and vigor of a high school team and anyone who played or followed the club will always remember it as one of the best in the annals of short bases and the big ball.

The hard ball team also got under way here but didn't maintain the record expected. The interest wasn't as great as it should have been, and therefore the club suffered. The boys didn't play too often but when they did they were all out. The club was managed by the fiery "Meatball" Mehall and the weight thrown on Mike Sebo to do most of the chucking with "Fireman" Flannery, the grand old man of baseball ready for a relief chore if needed. "Chubby" Lenart handled the receiving end and the outfield was maintained by "Bo Bo" Hippert. The hardball team got off to a poor start and therefore lacked the punch to bring them over the 500 mark in wins and losses.

Athletic interest was more than just baseball here. Boys took advantage of the fine breakers in Lingayen Gulf and the rod and reel went into action. Until the time we left Luzon, Jeff Yeilding and Johnny Walker were still looking for their first catch. As for "Miff-Boom" Uniak, he had the system down to every detail but the canning, but we'll not go into that. When we left, there was more than one under-populated fish pond in the vicinity of the 306th Airdrome Squadron area.

The green tops held the interest of the Don Budes and Frankie Parkers of the outfit. There was a tournament held in the Service Club, but there wasn't time enough to land the No. 1 player of the squadron. Anytime of the day and most hours of the night, one could find Leyba, Sherman or "Gibson" Aukes trying to improve their over-hand or tricky serve.

Aside from the well-known sports of everyday life, the boys found a few more. "Colonel" Abbott was the main offender in his line of chicken hunting - those that had feathers..... We're not sure of his method, it was either by hitting them with the jeep, rocks or using his lasso. Whatever it was, it must have been effective as tent #13 had quite a few chicken roasts.

Whether it was softball, basketball, baseball, ping-pong or fishing, you could always find someone who was willing to partake in the sport with you. There were many individuals participating and deserving of due credit, but due to the limit of time and space we aren't able to do everyone justice. We're sure the individual is capable of adding anything we left out and the listener won't doubt his word.

.....Why I remember the time when Casey was up to bat, bases loaded, score tied, two out, count three and two - - let's have another beer.....

SOMEWHERE IN NEW GUINEA

Somewhere in New Guinea,
Where the sun is like a curse,
Where the days are all the same,
But tomorrow's always worse.
Where the water's swell for swimming;
But that is just a lark,
For no sooner than we're in-
We are followed by a shark.

Somewhere in New Guinea,
Where the non-coms take delight
In keeping us all busy
From morning until night.
Of course, we have the Chaplain
To tell our troubles to,
So we always squawk and holler
'Cause there's nothing else to do.

Somewhere in New Guinea,
We are such a happy lot,
We have our daily downpours
And our shoes begin to rot.
Although we're not complaining
It's not as bad as it looks,
For we have our happy hours
Deciding how to kill the cooks!

Somewhere in New Guinea,
Where a girl is never seen,
Where the sky is always cloudy
And the raindrops form a screen.
Where the rats' and frogs' wild clatter
Rob a soldier of precious sleep.
Where there isn't any whiskey,
But not one can of beer a week.

Somewhere in New Guinea,
Where the nights are made for love,
Where the moon is like a searchlight,
With the Southern Cross above.
Where the stars twinkle on high
In the beautiful, tropical sky.
'Tis a shameful waste of beauty
When there's not a girl in sight.

Somewhere in New Guinea,
Where the goonies moon and cry,
And the lumbering deep-sea turtles
Come upon the beach to die.
Where we always have a payroll
But we never have a cent,
Though we never miss the money
'Cause there's no place to get it spent.

Somewhere in New Guinea,
Where the moon fills us with dread,
For it makes us perfect targets
For the planes flying overhead.
But this can't last forever,
Or at least we hope that's so.
Before we go, we'd like to see
One more Christmas, white with snow.

Somewhere in New Guinea
Where the mail is always late
And a Christmas card in April
Is considered up to date.
So when this war is over
And no more Japs are found,
They can have this place, New Guinea,
'Cause we'll be homeward bound.

Somewhere in New Guinea,
Where the ants and lizards play
And a thousand fresh mosquitoes
Replace the ones you slay.
So take me back to good old Pennsylvania,
The place I love so well;
For this twisted, tangled jungle
Is far from being swell.

SOMEWHERE IN NEW GUINEA

We were somewhere in New Guinea
Where the air was dry and clear
Where a man could locate liquor
Tho the price was very dear
Where at least you saw a woman
Tho the brand was straight G.I.
And she'd only date a Major
Or a looney who could fly.

We are somewhere in New Guinea still
But things are not the same
For there isn't any booze at all
And not a single dame
Ah, but what of native beauties?
You can put your fears away
Cause they're fat, black and ugly
And sure could use brassieres.

We are somewhere in the jungle
Where the mud becomes knee deep
Where there isn't any limit
To the number in a jeep
Where the ants are very chummy
And you have to share your bed
Not with what you would like to find there
But a twelve foot snake instead.

We are somewhere in New Guinea
Where alerts are always red
But you never know about a raid
Till the planes are overhead
Till you hear machines guns chatter
And you make a record spring
For the nearest muddy foxhole
With your skin a whitish tinge.

Then you catch your breath a little
And emerge into the day
Just to watch our fighter pilots
Really earn their pay
Then you see some fine mathematics
As they start subtracting "Zeros"
And dividing Mitsubishi's
Giving Tojo more dead heroes.

Now we're fighting for New Guinea
But we do not know the reason
It's a dismal sort of island
With a twelve month rainy season
And so when we have cleared these jungles
Of those yellow "Hari Kari"
We will give this rotten place
Back to the missionaries.